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THE
KALISH REVOLUTION;
CONTAINING
OBSERVATIONS
ON
MAN AND MANNERS.



ITALIAN

OBSEVATIONS

MINN AND MAYNERS

THE
KALISH REVOLUTION;

CONTAINING

OBSERVATIONS

ON

MAN AND MANNERS.

BY

DURUS, KING OF KALIKANG;

WHO WAS BORN IN THE REIGN OF THE
EMPEROR AUGUSTUS, TRAVELLED
OVER MOST OF THE GLOBE,
AND STILL EXISTS.

EDINBURGH:

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MD,CC,LXXXIX.

THE



KALISH RATION

CONTAINING

OF RATION

ON

MAY 1871

DURUS, KING OF KALISH

WHO WAS BORN IN THE REIGN OF THE
THIRTEEN AUGUSTUS, TRAVELLED
OVER MOST OF THE GLOBE,
AND STILL EXISTS.

—————

EDINBURGH

PRINTED BY J. W. G. & CO. 10, N. B. STREET, EDINBURGH.

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1871

KALISH REVOLUTION.

WHEN had this world a beginning?
There may be other worlds in the
infinite space as large as this, perhaps
bigger,—and as numberless as are the stars!
as numberless as are the grains of sand co-
vering the sea shore! worlds upon worlds,
heaps of worlds heaped!

This globe of earth and water upon
which we trample, has received the touch
of an omnipotent hand. But when?

A

The

~~The curious part of mankind would~~
wish to know every thing. But those
things are alone worthy of attention, that
regard our present and future happiness.

This is the summit of all philosophy,
and ought to be the chief end of all our
endeavours. This best of all enjoyments
is within the reach of all ranks of men ;
the poor as well as the rich ; and can only
be secured by a pure and blameless, a good
and virtuous life.

When people of this character die, their
souls are immediately received into the pre-
sence of God, there to enjoy endless and
never fading pleasures. On the other hand,
when the wicked die, their souls are im-
mediately sent into a place of perpetual
punishment, proportioned to their guilt
whilst in this world, whilst in this state of
trial.



The

The Almighty Creator, by his divine immutable laws, has enacted this future state of rewards for the good, and punishments for the wicked.

Whilst a man preserves his heart uncorrupted, and disdains the doing of a dirty action, he bears the most exact resemblance to his Heavenly Maker that can be supposed; and it is such only that after death can be received into the presence of God, there to enjoy the pleasures of heaven,—pleasures that far exceed any thing that we are now able to conceive or imagine.

The Almighty Creator has established the good order of this world, with respect to light and darkness, heat and cold, the seasons, &c. by laws that are to subsist for a limited time. When this limited time expires, then cometh the last day, when the living and the dead must obey the summons of the Most High God.

Then

Then will all the dead bodies of men, women, and children, since the creation, though wholly mouldered into their original dust,—whether lying in the land, or in the waters—whether eaten of worms, devoured by vultures, or swallowed by fishes—whatever has been the case ; all, all, must appear, and once more bear about his or her immortal soul, which was separated from the body at death, and had already received its doom before the awful tribunal of Heaven.

C H A P.

C H A P. II.

MY birth may be dated in or nearly about the 29th year of the Emperor Augustus. The island now known by the name of Great Britain is the place of my nativity. My father was one of the Druids. The event has shewn that he could sometimes penetrate into futurity; for the moment I entered upon the theatre of this world, he named me *Durus*, because he then, he said, foresaw the long duration of my life, and the perpetual stability of my doctrine.

I was yet young, when led by curiosity, I went one day to look at a vessel riding at anchor on the north side of the river Bodotria. The crew inveigled me on board, and the same day set sail, and carried

ried me out to sea. I found myself on board a Roman galley, employed in surveying the British coast.

A blueish kind of cloud in the north east, darting forth a most peircing cold, threatened a storm. The wind rose by degrees to such a pitch, and blew with such terrible violence, that we were every minute at the point of being overwhelmed between the waves, which were now showing their lofty heads as high as our mizen, and frequently broke on us with such fury, as threatened to swallow us at a mouthful! When dark night came on, nothing was to be seen or heard but the roaring of the sea, and the horrors of immediate death.

Next day I was glad to have an interview, even by signs with the strangers on board. Being introduced into the cabin, how great was my surprise at seeing a female acquaintance, by name Liza, a native
of

of Cornwall, besides a few more captives of her sex ! I was wrong in my conjecture, when I supposed the girls had been seized for the purposes of those on board : it was not so. The Romans were in use, at this time, to fetch the greatest beauties they could find in the remoter provinces, to the seat of empire, whither we were now bound.

There was on board, along with the gentlemen employed in surveying the coast, the celebrated Seneca, then a young man about my own age, who observing the pregnancy of my wit, resolved to be at some pains to improve me in the Latin language ; and a tedious passage of about eighty days to Cadiz gave me an opportunity of making no small progress under so great a master. Here it was that Seneca took his leave. He was not only tired of the sea, but wanted very much to visit his native city, Corduba, in his way to Rome. At parting, he strictly enjoined me to call for him upon my arrival at this latter city.

C H A P.

C H A P. III.

HAVING laid in at Cadiz a stock of fresh water, and other provisions, we set sail for Italy : But, before we got between the pillars of Hercules, we were overtaken with a very high wind, which drove us towards the fortunate islands. Here we were involved in a profound calm. This of itself was trifling ; but the vessel sprung a leak that threatened to sink us before we could reach the land.

We stepped into a long-boat as the only means left to save our lives. But this last resource was rendered still a dangerous one from the imprudence of the crew, who insisted upon taking in all their parcels. There was twenty of us in all ; twelve men,

men, two boys, and six young women.
We were at least two miles from land.

We had but just put off from the wreck when our captain cried out, that in his late hurry he had left behind him a bag of money; so he ordered the men at the oars to put back for it. Captain Scaevolas' former tyranny was now remembered: The sailors refused to obey; they exclaimed with one voice that life was sweeter than money. A scuffle ensued between the captain and one of the men, which ended in overturning the boat.

Now it was that some got up and rode on the baggage—some on the boat's keel—others fell a grasping the waves—and every one seemed to be pressing eagerly for life upon any terms.

As for myself, I made shift to swim to the shore, where I stood a good while longing for my companions. I observed at

B

last

last something like one of the chests driving with the tide ; and, upon its coming a little nearer, I was agreeably surpris'd to see one of the girls driving after it. This proved to be Liza, to whose assistance I immediately flew, and carried her to the shore. She appeared to be nearly dead. However, I despaired not of her recovery. I forthwith carried her to a bed of hay, well toasted with the sun. Here she lay some time speechless, and almost motionless. My endeavours to recover her were not employed in vain. It was with the highest joy that I perceived the odoriferous herbs conspire with the warm earth, the heat of the sun, and the salubrity of the air, in restoring her strength, and at the same time in repairing my enfeebled organs. As soon as she could speak, she related to me the particulars of her escape ; how a sailor fastened her to the chest with a rope, and was bringing the whole along with him, until some accident forced him to quit his gripe.

C H A P.

C H A P. IV.

WE were not yet certain if the island was peopled, for we had seen none of the human race. It was our good fortune to find a small stock of bread in the chest, which, though sadly soaked in the sea-water, eat very well when dried before the sun. We had several kinds of fruit for the gathering; and there was a rivulet of fine soft water just by.

The spot I fixed upon for our repose was surrounded with a great variety of trees and shrubbery, intermixed with an agreeable negligence, perfumed with the sweetest odours, and resounded with the mingled melody of the singing birds of heaven. But what gave the greatest lustre to these rural beauties was the charms of my fair
com-

companion, who began to shine with all the glitter of innocence. The graces of her person, though unknown to herself, were all powerful with me. She bore so exquisitely the colouring of modesty, that it seemed treason to touch her.—We closed the day with a solemn engagement to live as man and wife the rest of our lives.

The marriage-treaty being thus agreed to, we fell down, and thanked God for all his mercies, and particularly for our late deliverance from the dangers of the sea ; and, having implored his blessing and support in all future times, we betook ourselves to rest.

C H A P.

C H A P. V.

ALITTLE after the rising of the sun, we were alarmed with the noise of huntsmen brushing through the woods. One of their dogs came and yelped at us. We were presently invested by the whole gang, amounting to about fifteen persons.

I endeavoured, by signs, to point out to them the loss of our ship. But this they understood already. They had even been stripping the dead bodies cast on the shore. One of them had on his shoulders our late Captain's fine cloke. They formed themselves into a circle around us, as if they meant to plunder the living as well as the dead. They were going to be a little rude to my wife, when very happily the
 master

master of the gang, by name Asdrubal, stepped in, and interposed his authority.

Asdrubal commanded his slaves to carry our chest to his house, which was about five miles distant ; then taking my wife by the hand, he led her along, and desired me to follow.

We were but just arrived at Asdrubal's house, when his Lady, by name Cornelia, fond to see the strangers, came and questioned us, in the language of the Britons, as to our adventures. This was our native speech ; and our meeting with a countrywoman was no small pleasure to us.

Cornelia seemed equally pleased : But, how great was her joy, when, upon a little farther inquiry, she found out my wife Liza to be her own sister ! Hereupon they caressed each other a good while, with every mark of the most sincere affection, and could not enough admire the providence

dence of God in determining the fate of poor mortals !

We were now carried into the parlour, and kindly entertained with the best things in the house. Asdrubal, my brother-in-law, was great grandson of Hamilcar the Carthaginian, who made this island the place of his retreat at the destruction of Carthage by the Romans. Here Asdrubal had a fine estate, abounding with the most delicious wines and fruits ; and having within his own possession every thing necessary for life, he gave over some years ago all foreign traffic. His last voyage was to Britain, where, in the province of Cornwall, he fell in with his wife Cornelia, by whom he had some fine children. He had two sisters who lived in the house with us, as did likewise his clerk Mago.

Asdrubal furnished me with clothes, as did Cornelia her sister, after the mode of the island.

It

It might be thought that our harmony in this retirement must be undisturbed, there being no cause for discord but such as we ourselves might occasion. Such, however, is the nature of the present world: There is no perfect happiness to be found in it, neither in retirement, nor in the bustle of public business. But, as the Almighty Creator intended none of his creatures to be miserable, we see the necessity of expecting perfect happiness only in the world to come, for which we must be careful whilst it is in our power to prepare ourselves.

Shut up, as we were, in a small island, we were no ways deficient in modes of entertainment. Music and hunting were the most rational. Dice, and games of chance, often soured the family. We held frequent concerts upon a rising piece of ground, wholly overshadowed with the spreading branches of the beautiful evergreen. Here the Ladies assisted with their singing; as
did

did Asdrubal, and certain of his slaves, with their flutes, hautboys, harps, &c.

Methinks I still hear them warbling the softest airs, and making the neighbouring hills resound with the melody of their sweet notes !

Mean time, domestic discord made its entry into our once peaceful habitation, and proved a powerful bitter to counteract the sweetness of the music. Cornelia had naturally a gay chearful temper ; and the arrival of her sister, after despairing of ever seeing any of her kinsfolks, gave no small addition to her spirits. Addressing much of her discourse to my wife, and rather more of it to myself, her husband Asdrubal began to take great offence ; for he had a truly jealous, choleric, revengeful Carthaginian temper.

Mago the clerk knew well how to avail himself of the present opportunity, in order to disgrace me in the opinion of my
C brother-

brother-in-law. He watched all his airs and motions ; by seasonable hints and whisperings kept up his doubts ; and, by losing no chance of heaping fresh fuel, he held his master's passions in a state of incessant burning. His design was to turn me out of the house ; for he dreaded that I might one day come to supplant him as to the clerkship. In his project to discard me, he was greatly assisted by Asdrubal's two sisters, Minae and Clypaea, whose hatred against the strangers daily increased.

It was Asdrubal's custom to harbour malice and ill-nature till it swelled to some height, and then he discharged it in furious squalls. The more he tyrannized over his wife, the more she triumphed over his weakness. He tried in vain, by the force of argument, to reduce her high and lofty spirits. At last, he used open and violent attacks, which served only to excite horror and contempt. His harsh behaviour overwhelmed her in the end, and gradually sunk her into a state of deep melancholy.

C H A P.

C H A P. VI.

AFTER all, Asdrubal had a great share of benevolence and goodness of heart. We must not condemn him till we have seen a fair state of his case. Whispering only does sometimes go a great way to make a man very uneasy, if not mad, especially when a woman is in the case.

Mago had address enough to improve Cornelia's artless innocence into a crime; but we shall presently see himself fall into the snare he had been contriving for another.

Asdrubal's greatest weakness was a mutability of temper, which, immediately after an accommodation, replunged him into deeper scrapes. Prejudices took growth in
his

his brain as in a fertile soil, without any other culture than a few touches of Mago's hellish tongue. Nor is there ever wanting abundance of medlers to propagate an increase of such pernicious fruit.

How great was my surprise, when ordered one morning to leave the house, along with my wife and Cornelia, without knowing any reason, on my part, for such treatment! Asdrubal had prepared a boat to convey us to a neighbouring island, the place of our banishment. Such was our doom!

Mago himself was as much concerned at Cornelia's departure as I could be; for it seems he had taken a liking to her person, and was jealous of me on two accounts. Mago began to expostulate with his master, and had sufficient art and address to make him counteract the order.

Being

Being thus resettled in the family, we had once more the enjoyment of a profound tranquility ; which however lasted only a few days, when Cornelia and her husband had a fresh bickering about some trifle.

Our destiny seemed now to be denounced, without hopes of pardon, when all of a sudden affairs assumed a new and unexpected aspect. Asdrubal stepping into his wine-cellar, detected Mago in close conversation with his wife Cornelia. Jealousy took the alarm. Mago was discarded instantly, few people knowing the cause.

C H A P.

C H A P. VII.

ASDRUBAL's eyes were now opened, and he had sufficient decernment to see through Mago's vile insinuations. His prejudices against me soon died away, for want of fresh fuel. He now received me into the number of his friends; named me his clerk and secretary, and made me share in all his most important deliberations.

He sent me one day with his boat to a neighbouring island upon some business. A sudden gust of wind got up while at sea; and, owing to carelessness in the management of the sails, the boat was overset. Hereupon I exerted myself to the utmost, and got upon the boat's keel, where I held fast, till a Roman galley, observing my disaster, came quickly to my relief. I begged
of

of the commander to give me a cast to the island where my wife and friends lived ; but, being now on his way for Italy, and the wind favourable, he pretended not to understand me.

My next landing was at Ostia, from whence I walked on foot to Rome, where I hoped to meet with my good friend Seneca.

C H A P.

C H A P. VIII.

I SHALL never forget the horrible spectacle that first presented itself upon my entering the gates of the world's metropolis. I saw the rabble of Rome dragging the dead body of a once great personage from one street to another; and this they continued for days together, till there was not a limb entire to cast into the Tiber! This was Sejanus, prime minister to the Emperor Tiberius, who a few days before ruled the empire with absolute sway; was courted, and even adored by the very people who now delight in insulting his mangled corpse.

Having thus seen him cast into the Tiber, one's curiosity is awaked to trace so extraordinary a person through the various
steps

steps by which he mounted that eminence from whence he had so wretched a fall.

Sejanus was born at Vulturni in Hetruria. In his youth he is said to have subjected himself for hire to a famous epicure, Apicius, who, having reduced his immense fortune to ten millions of small sesterces, chose rather to kill himself than any ways retrench the usual expences of his table, where every day was served up the tongues of peacocks and nightingales, with all the variety that could be gathered in the forests, seas, and rivers.

Sejanus was, in the beginning of Tiberius' reign, put in the joint command of the praetorian guards with Strabo his father, who held that office in the reign of Augustus. Strabo was soon after sent out governor of Egypt ; and the son was honoured with the sole command of the guards. He was in his person tall, strong, and handsome ; his mind vigorous, and highly tinctured with ambition : Modesty,

D

good-

good-nature, and affability, shone conspicuously in his general deportment. By wearing, for the most part, a mask of this beautiful dye, he kept hid a long time a series of the most diabolical practices. The Emperor was so taken with his agreeable manner, his outward politeness, which even seemed natural, that he took delight in heaping honours upon him. He not only advanced him to the highest posts, but gave him the disposal of all places of any consequence, civil and military, throughout the empire. In short, he came at last to repose in Sejanus the whole management of the government.

Thus far in his Sovereign's good graces, he despised the notion of remaining any longer a subject. His ambition aimed at the sovereignty : But to attain his object he must wade through the blood of Tiberius, his son Drusus, and the rest of the Imperial family ; otherwise he justly dreaded that he might sit upon a throne of thorns.

C H A P.

C H A P. IX.

IN order to have a glance at the Imperial family, we must look back a little. During the civil wars that followed, upon the death of Julius Caesar, Claudius Nero, a zealous republican, was forced, upon the fall of his party, to take flight with his wife Livia, then big with child, and carrying their son Tiberius, the present Emperor, then a helpless boy, in her arms.

Augustus, meeting them in this condition, took them prisoners. Their captivity was none of the hardest. Augustus was so charmed with Livia's person and conversation, that he divorced his wife, and married her, Claudius not daring to oppose a man who then commanded half the world.

world. Livia was delivered of her son, Drusus, soon after.

It was natural enough for Livia to have a kindness for her two sons, Tiberius and Drusus; but it was cruel in her to employ secret agents to destroy her new husband's grand-children. She had the address to make him adopt her son Tiberius for his successor; and by the same settlement was adopted Germanicus, the son of Drusus, and his descendants, failing those of Tiberius.

Livia did not think it safe to stop here; for, as Augustus was returning from Naples, where he had been for the recovery of his health, she is supposed to have given him poisoned figs to eat, of which he died at Nola on his way to Rome.

Such was the end of the famous Augustus, having reigned from the battle of Actium forty-three years. He died in the
seventy-

seventy-sixth year of his age, had a stranger for his successor, and his own family was nearly exterminated.

Tiberius was first married to Vipsania Agrippina, by whom he had his son Drusus. While she was big with another child, Augustus caused him to divorce her, in order to marry his daughter Julia, the widow of Agrippa, and mother of the before mentioned unfortunate grand-children. Julia, upon her marriage with Tiberius, began afresh the scandalous practises she had carried on in the time of her former husband, which so provoked her father Augustus, that he banished her to Rhegium, on the Streights of Sicily, where she was allowed a small pension for her support. But now her father being dead, Tiberius sent orders to confine her to a close apartment, without food.

Behold the daughter of the greatest monarch in the world breathing her last thro' mere

mere want, and that by the cruel orders of her own husband, who filled her father's throne.

Tiberius likewise directed his fury against her gallants, whom the clemency of Augustus had spared. Of these, the most remarkable was Sempronius Gracchus, who had been banished by Augustus to the island Cercina, where he was now surprised and killed by a party sent expressly for that purpose.

Livia had no great consolation in her son, for whose advancement she had gone such lengths. Nay, he took every opportunity to mortify her, and could not bear the thoughts of owing the sovereignty of the world to a woman.

C H A P.

C H A P. X.

WE see two obstacles to the views of Sejanus in the persons of Tiberius, and his son Drusus. There were no less difficulties to be surmounted in the family of the Emperor's nephew Germanicus, which was very numerous. Germanicus was the darling of the Roman people, as his father Drusus, who died a young man, had been before him. He restored the German affairs, to which the overthrow of Varus had given a terrible blow; and was so beloved by the soldiery that they frequently pressed him to take the empire at their hands. But he was at the point of killing himself, rather than have it so much as said that he listened to such treasonable offers: For such he considered them whilst his uncle Tiberius and cousin Drusus lived.

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The affection of the army, and the high regard shown to Germanicus by all ranks of people, proved fatal to him. The Emperor could not bear to see such marks of favour heaped upon his nephew: But he dissembled his fears till he could rid himself effectually of so potent a rival.

For this end he gave him the command in Asia, under colour of doing him honour, with power to accommodate the differences that had arisen amongst the Asiatic princes. But he appointed for his colleague one Piso, a man of a restless, proud, arrogant temper, and who was attended by his wife Plancina, a favourite of Livia, a woman of intolerable pride, and well versed in the arts of poisoning.

The chief part Piso acted in this expedition was to gain the love of the soldiery by his largesses, for he was immensely rich, and to thwart, plague, and affront, the good natured Germanicus in every thing. The
part

part Plancina took was to seize every favourable moment to administer the fatal dose, in which at last she succeeded.

Such was the fate of Germanicus in the thirty-fourth year of his age. He was a great orator and an accomplished general. His affability, and the natural sweetness of his temper, made him every where regretted, even amongst his very enemies. The people of Antioch, where he died, in the first transports of their grief, threw stones at their temples, overturned their altars, and cast their household gods out of doors. They compared him to Alexander the Great, as to the gracefulness of his person, the nobility of his descent, his many victories, his age, and the circumstances of his death.

At Rome they did not content themselves with merely bewailing his loss : They called loudly for justice against Piso and his wife ; nor was it safe for Tiberius to take

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their

their part. He therefore dissembled as usual, but took care, in the course of Piso's trial, to cause him be despatched, in case he should blab a secret. As for Plancina, she was tried, but acquitted for the present. However, she fell tragically soon after, upon another occasion.

Germanicus was the grandson of Octavia the sister of Augustus, and Mark Anthony, whose daughter Antonia was married to the Emperor's brother Drusus, and bore to him, besides our so much regretted hero, Livilla, who was married to the Emperor's son Drusus, her cousin, and Claudius, who was afterwards Emperor.

Germanicus was married to Agrippina, the daughter of the above unhappy Julia, and her first husband Agrippa, by whom he had nine children. But of these, only six survived him: Nero, Drusus, and Caius Caligula, who was afterwards Emperor; and

and three daughters, Agrippina the mother of the Emperor Nero, Drusilla, and Julia.

Such was the Imperial family when Sejanus thought of usurping the empire. In the furious starts of his wild ambition, he determined to cut all off, root and branch. As for the children of Germanicus, he almost considered them as so many victims already slain ; so easy was it for him to rekindle the Emperor's jealousy of that popular family, by placing spies on all their words and actions.

But he had a powerful reason for beginning with the Emperor's son Drusus : He was continually complaining to his father of the intolerable pride and great authority of the favourite : How he, like a stranger or an impostor, was debarred from all share in the administration ; whilst Sejanus ruled with absolute sway both the empire and the Emperor. Add to all this, Drusus was naturally haughty, proud, revengeful, rash, and

and regardless of what he said or did. One day, after some altercation, he gave Sejanus a slap on the face with his fist.

Sejanus did not openly resent this gross affront: He took a secret course, which succeeded better: He artfully insinuated himself into the good graces of Livilla; and, pretending to be in love with her person, he drew her into a criminal compliance. This first step being over, he found it easy to bring her into another; and that was, to give her husband Drusus a slow working poison, and so get rid of him. The reward was to be Sejanus for a husband, who, to convince her of his sincerity, immediately divorced his wife, Apicata although he had several children by her.

Mean time Drusus fell ill, took to his bed, pined away, and died. The Emperor seemed no ways affected with the death of his son; nor did he shew any great attachment

ment to his two grandsons, of whom Livilla was lately delivered at a birth.

Sejanus having thus got rid of Drusus, made a formal application for leave to marry his widow. The Emperor put him off from time to time with delays, and at last rejected his demand. At this the favourite was thunderstruck; for he had never before been thwarted in any of his demands.

At this time satirical libels were spread through the city, exposing the Emperor's character, which stung him to the quick. Sejanus, who made every conjuncture subservient to his designs, laid hold of the present to set off the charms of a country life. Tiberius was the more easily persuaded to withdraw from Rome, as the presence of his mother was become painful to him, as well as the clamours of an unsteady people.

C H A P.

C H A P. XI.

Year of
Rome
774.

THE Emperor gave out, upon leaving the city, that he was only going into Campania for an airing ; but, in fact, he never returned to his metropolis, though he lived ten years thereafter. His attendants, beside Sejanus, were chiefly some Greek philosophers, whose conversation he liked.

Soon after their departure, an accident happened which served very much to heighten the Emperor's good opinion of the favourite, whom he now considered as a man wholly devoted to his safety. As they supped one night in a cave of one of the Imperial villas near Terracina, its mouth broke down, and buried some of the company, which spread such consternation

nation amongst the rest, that they all fled, leaving the Emperor to shift for himself, except Sejanus, who, covering the Emperor's body with his own, and by that means defending him from the stones that fell from above, at the hazard of his own life, crept thus on all fours, and brought out his Sovereign safe, and even unhurt.

Tiberius hardly knew how to reward sufficiently so notable a service; and the ambitious favourite improved this happy disposition to the destruction of the family of the late Germanicus, which he nearly effected.

The Emperor took up his residence in the island of Capreae, situated about three miles distant from the cape of Surrentum, an island almost every where surrounded with inaccessible rocks. His mother Livia died soon after. She had hitherto been a kind of restraint upon her son. But now he and his minion broke loose like bears
upon

upon every body any ways obnoxious to either.

Tiberius sent letters to Rome full of bitter invectives against Agrippina and her son Nero, charging the latter with unnatural lust, and the mother with an ungovernable temper, proud and dangerous looks. These letters were intended to sound the disposition of the senators with respect to the wife and children of the great Germanicus.

The Fathers were struck at their perusal; nor did the leading ones know how to conduct themselves in a case so uncommon. Their recorder, Junius Rusticus, was supposed to know the Emperor's intentions the best, and therefore they resolved to abide by his opinion. But Junius, fearing the resentment of a family that stood so near the succession, wished to put off the matter till they heard again from the Emperor or his minister, which was agreed to.

Mean

Mean time, a vein of satire and abuse broke out against Sejanus, which so enraged him, that he wrote immediately to the senators, commanding them to proceed instantly against the persons devoted to destruction.

Hereupon they hesitated no longer : Agrippina was banished to the island of Santa Maria, bewailing as she went along her sad fate, and venting bitter invectives against the Emperor and his minion. The centurion who conducted her, so far from pitying, struck her often on the face, and put out one of her eyes. Her son Nero was banished to the island of Ponza : And, by the same sentence, her son Drusus was declared an enemy to the state, and confined to one of the lowest apartments in the palace.

Nero died soon after. An executioner being sent to frighten him, he chose rather to abstain from food, than live in continual

F

terror.

terror. His mother and brother Drusus died likewise very miserably, and nearly about the same time. Drusus was so much neglected, that he was in a manner devoured by vermin.

After the condemnation of Agrippina and her children, Sejanus became more formidable, and was much more courted and respected than the Emperor himself. The Senate decreed him many extraordinary honours: They ordained, that his birthday should be celebrated yearly; that his statues, which were placed in every quarter of the city, should be adored; and that vows and sacrifices should be offered for his safety, &c.

From Sejanus flowed all posts and places. He had, one might say, the packing of the whole empire, and was just wrought up to such a pitch, that he could at a word have overturned it.

C H A P.

C H A P. XII.

TIBERIUS saw himself ensnared at last. He would not so soon have discerned his danger, had not Antonia, the mother of the late Germanicus, sent him by the hands of her trusty servant Pallas, a written detail of the minion's wicked courses, all tending to the ambitious project he meant still to accomplish.

The Emperor's eyes thus opened, he immediately beheld himself the mean captive, the devoted victim of a worthless favourite, who, like a snake long cherished in his bosom, was just ready to tear out his entrails. Here stands the master of the world in the little island of Capreae, beset with the spies and creatures of his perfidious minister, ready to stab him on the first signal! whilst
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the minister is ruling every where with absolute sway ; a minister who had already gone a great way in the destruction of the Imperial family, and was just ready to pluck out the root, after thus lopping off the branches !

What anxiety, anguish, and distress, does the Emperor feel upon this occasion ! But it was not now the time to fret, and look sad. Tiberius weighs the matter coolly ; and, instead of instantly breaking with Sejanus, he appears readier than ever to heap fresh honours upon him. Never did any man excel Tiberius in the art of dissimulation ; nor was it ever more necessary than in this critical juncture.

Whilst a variety of expedients were revolving in his mind, whereby at once to free himself from the impending danger, he all at once comes to this : He takes Sejanus aside, and tells him his intention of making him his colleague in the Consulship.

ship the ensuing year then just at hand :
Then he ordered him forthwith to set out
for Rome, to take possession of his new
dignity ;—orders which Sejanus received
with the highest inward joy.

Upon his arrival in Rome fresh honours
were decreed to him ; victims were slain
before his statues ; persons of all ranks
came to congratulate him ; the greatest
men in Rome were not ashamed to court
the favour of his slaves and freedmen.

Here we shall leave Sejanus for a while,
and take a view of a new scene that began
to open at Capreae, where the Emperor
ushered in a character, which equalled, if
not surpassed, himself in dissimulation :
This was Caius Caligula, the only surviving
son of Germanicus, to whom the most flat-
tering prospects opened, upon the depar-
ture of Sejanus. Tiberius, not content
with heaping honours upon him, declared
his

his intention to adopt him for his successor, in preference to his own grandson.

The bulk of the people, and many of the Senators, were overjoyed at this news, which greatly contributed to revive the Emperor's drooping spirits : For his treacherous minister visibly sunk in proportion as Caligula was raised.

The young Prince lived with the Emperor at Capreae, and behaved himself in a manner so obliging, that Tiberius could not help careffing him, if he even had not had a political purpose to serve by it. However much Caligula detested the Emperor for the condemnation of his mother and brothers, he never appeared to be moved by it. Nay, he approved of every thing so dexterously, that it even seemed natural.

Caligula's great popularity terrified Sejanus, who now looked back with regret upon the many opportunities he had let slip.
Still

Still he wished to be recalled to Capreae, where he might seize the Emperor's person, and make a push for the empire. But Tiberius never would consent to his return, pretending always that he was soon to be in Rome himself.

Sejanus resigned the fasces, before the consular year expired, to Sextidius Catallinus; as did the Emperor, his colleague, to Maximus Regulus.

C H A P.

C H A P. XIII.

IN all the Emperor's letters to the Senate, his growing coolness towards the favourite was too visible to be mistaken. In one of them, he severely reproached the senators for daring to offer divine honours to any man whatever. This was levelled against Sejanus :—And the Emperor now omitting the usual encomiums upon the favourite, few of his wonted friends liked to be seen with him. Those that still stuck to him were not of the first quality.

The Emperor still, however, preserved a kind of fair outside : For sometimes he would insinuate that he designed to bestow upon him the tribunitial power ; at other times he complained of his conduct ; and, upon the whole, uttered himself with such
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ambiguity, as kept the falling minister in a continual state of suspense.

Having in this manner prepared the way, the time was now arrived when Tiberius thought fit to secure himself effectually from the designs of his ambitious favourite by his total ruin. He privately gives Macro, a man in whom he could trust, the command of the praetorian guards; sends him to Rome with a letter to the Senate, having first shown him the contents, and taught him the part he was to act.

Macro enters Rome late in the night; goes directly to the Consul Regulus, the other Consul being a friend to Sejanus; and, having produced his orders, concerts with Regulus as to the measures proper to be taken next day.

Early in the morning Regulus summoned the Senate to assemble in the palace.

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As

As Sejanus was entering it, attended, according to custom, with a detachment of the praetorian guards, he was deeply struck at seeing Macro, and the more so as he brought him no letters from the Emperor. Macro, observing his confusion, whispered in his ear that he had letters from the Emperor, intreating the Senate to vest him with the tribunitial power. Sejanus, uplifted at this news, went directly in high spirits into the palace, and takes his place in the temple of Apollo.

Macro, having thus put him into a good humour, went straight to the praetorian soldiers and showed them the Emperor's commission, naming him to command them in the place of Sejanus: And having assured them that it was the Emperor's orders to give them a piece of money, he took possession of his new post by ordering them back to their camp without the walls of the city; a camp that Sejanus had erected for them some years before.

Mean

Mean time matters were so concerted, that Gracinus Laco, who commanded the vigiles, or city guards, flew with a detachment of his men to the gates of the temple, where the fathers were sitting. These were thought fitter for the present service than Macro's new soldiers, who having long served under Sejanus, and his father before him, would likely side with him upon any emergency.

Macro, on his part, quickly returned to the Senate, and, after putting the Emperor's letter into the hands of Regulus the Consul, he made haste back to his camp, to prevent any disturbances which might happen there.

Regulus stood up, and read aloud the Emperor's letter, which was very long, and wrote in some places with a meanness unbecoming a prince,—as when he begs of the senators that they would send one of the consuls, with a convoy of soldiers, to
conduct

conduct to Rome a poor old man forsaken by all. But in other parts it was written with great address, and in a stile equal to his high rank.

After a long preamble about other affairs, there came out some complaints against Sejanus, which were immediately cut short by introducing things of no great account. Then followed other complaints, but without any severity of expression.

All this time Sejanus listened with the utmost attention, hoping every minute to hear that repeated which Macro had made him to expect. But how great were his fears when he heard sentence of death pronounced against two of his most intimate friends, who were in the secret of his ambitious plot! He had not yet got the better of his fright, when he heard the fatal orders relating to himself; wherein the Emperor, in an angry stile, enjoined the fathers to secure his person.

Hereupon

Hereupon the whole temple resounded with the most cutting invectives against the very man, upon whom a few minutes before they had been equally lavish of their praises: For, hearing of his intended advancement, they had been complimenting him and courting his favour.

But now the scene is changed. The tribunes and praetors quitting their seats, came and surrounded him to prevent his escape. Some insulted him out of hatred; others through fear of being reckoned his friends.

Though all the senators seemed to declare against him, yet, as he had many friends and connections amongst them, the Consul Regulus did not think it adviseable to gather the suffrages of the whole assembly in order to his condemnation. He only asked the opinion of the impartial and unprejudiced, who agreed with him that it was proper to cast Sejanus into prison. Up-
on

on which he conducted him thither himself, attended by Gracinus Laco and all the magistrates.

The populace as they went along upbraided Sejanus with the many murders he had committed, and affronted him with bitter sarcasms upon his tribunitial power.

Unable to bear their insults, he threw his robe over his head to cover his face; but his guards presently uncovered him, and forced him to show himself to the multitude, who were eager to see him humbled, and to tread upon the man who had so long rode upon their necks.

The mob in a sudden transport flew to his statues and dashed them to pieces; those very statues which a few hours before they had adored.

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779.

The same day, it being the 17th of October, the Senate assembled the second time
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in the temple of Concord, near the prison, and pronounced sentence of death against Ælius Sejanus, convicted of high treason; not one daring to utter a single word in his favour.

This sentence was that instant carried into execution, and the body exposed on the *Scalae Gemoniae*, where being left to the people's fury, they dragged it for days together through the streets, as already mentioned upon my arrival in Rome.

Tiberius was all this day under the most terrible fears about the success of his enterprise at Rome. He got up to the top of a high rock, where he might learn, by signals that were to be made to him, the fate of Sejanus. In case his project did not succeed, he had a fleet at readiness to carry him to some of his most distant legions.

CHAP.

C H A P. XIV.

THE death of Sejanus was followed by a general massacre of all his friends and relations. He left a son and daughter, whose tender years should have spared them. But such was the Emperor's unbridled rage against that unhappy family, that he pressed the Senate to condemn them.

The boy was sensible of his approaching fate. But the girl often asked what they wanted with her? Why, says the child, if I have done a fault, whip me for it, and then let me go and play with other little girls like myself. The cries of innocence were not regarded. She and her brother were strangled by the executioner, exposed on the *Scalae Gemoniae*, and from thence

thence dragged with an iron hook to the Tiber!

This moving spectacle so affected Apicata their mother, whom Sejanus had divorced, in order to marry Livilla the widow of Drusus, [that unable to survive her dearly beloved children, she sat down, and whilst she wept bitterly, she employed the little time she meant yet to live, in writing a letter to Tiberius, informing him not only of the circumstances of his son's death; but of every thing in full detail, which could any ways tend to distract and torture the tyrant's breast; and having sent off the letter she killed herself.

The Emperor had been of opinion, that his son's death was owing to his intemperance; but upon receiving Apicata's letter, his eyes were opened, and he resolved, in the first transports of his rage, to sacrifice every body to his resentment, who had ever shewn the least mark of friendship

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either

either to Sejanus or to Livilla. As for Livilla herself, he would have spared her on her mother Antonia's account. But the mother herself thought her daughter's crimes such as deserved no mercy. Therefore she was starved to death.

The tyrant's fury fell even upon such as thought themselves most secure. It would be tedious to enumerate the very names of the unhappy victims. Amongst a great many others I shall only mention one; Asinius Gallus, whose only crime was, his having married Vespasia Agrippina, the Emperor's first wife, whom Augustus made him divorce, to make way for the unfortunate Julia.

Such horrors haunted the tyrant, even amongst rocks hardly accessible, that he often fancied he saw the avenging furies coming to scourge him. Amidst all his greatness, his unlimited power, and his numerous armies, he was in continual
fear

fear of secret assassins. With all the pomp of empire, he was the most miserable person in his dominions.

Blind man ! not to see that he only increased his own troubles in proportion as he made others suffer. Not knowing how to turn himself for ease, he left his island, and, coming within sight of the walls of Rome, was seized with such a terrible panic, that he flew back with great speed ! Nor did he make any halt to speak of till he came to the promontory of Misenum, where he shut himself up in a house that formerly belonged to the famous Lucullus.

Tiberius had naturally a good constitution, and might have held out to an advanced age, had he made himself the father and guardian of his people, and not their tyrant and butcher. He seldom or never tasted the delightful pleasures that result from noble and generous actions ; his were of the vicious kind, that shortened
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ed his days. As if lust and cruelty were linked together, he became infinitely more lustful, and more cruel, while he resided in the island Capreae, than ever he had been while in Rome. The effects of his cruelty were felt throughout the whole empire; those of his lust were confined to the court.

After the execution of Sejanus and his friends, so far from being restored to repose, Tiberius was more jaded than ever in his mind. Ghosts and spectres haunted him in his slumbers,—and the blood of great numbers of innocent people, basely sacrificed to vile informers, kept incessantly pouring like a torrent upon his enervated mind, thus making secret efforts to rebound with a vengeance upon this man of blood.

His ungrateful behaviour to his mother Livia, to whom he owed his crown, could not but sit heavy on his mind; for he killed
ed

ed her with grief. Add to all this, he had a bodily distemper, which he concealed a long time from his physicians, and when he disclosed it to them, refused to take any of their medicines or assistance.

His body and mind thus invested at one and the same time, it was generally believed, that he had not strength to hold out the conflict much longer. Another thing that greatly perplexed him, was, the naming of a successor. He began to hate Caligula, whom he formerly cared to serve a turn. He took a liking to Gemellus his grandson, whom he once thought supposititious. But Caligula was the favourite of the people, and in the prime of life. The surviving twin brother Gemellus was a youth unequal to the weight of the government.

The Emperor considering all circumstances, thought fit to leave the succession to fate. Weakly and much reduced, he
one

one day fell into a swoon, and was given out for dead.

Hereupon Caligula ran out of the palace, and presented himself to the soldiers that were in the way, and a croud of people that were gathered together to congratulate his accession to the empire. But his joy was in a moment changed into fear and trembling! Word was brought him that the Emperor was recovered from the fit, and wanted something to eat and drink.

It was Caligula's good fortune that he had a friend in Macro, or he would have been despatched ere this time. This tool in the destruction of Sejanus, his children, his connections, and many more, never blunted—kept always a sharp edge. This cruel man, having at present the care of the Emperor's person, caused the apartment to be cleared ; and, the better to make his court to the rising sun, he falls to work,
and

and smothers the setting one under a great load of clothes, pretending it was to keep him warm.

Such was the death of Tiberius, on the twenty-fourth day of March, in the seventy-eight year of his age, having reigned, from the death of Augustus, twenty-two years and some months. Caius Caligula, his successor, caused immediately the dead body to be carried from Cape Misenum to Rome, where it was burnt with the usual solemnity.

Year of
Rome
785.

CAIUS

CAIUS CALIGULA.

C H A P. XV.

THE death of Tiberius, and accession of Caligula, redoubled the people's pleasure, insomuch that they were quite transported. Victims were slain—the senators racked their invention in search of honours for their new Prince ; and all ranks of men seemed happy to see a son of the great Germanicus at the helm.

Caligula, on his part, answered their expectations during the first eight months of his reign. He suppressed informers ; set at liberty all state prisoners ; gave such as had been banished in the late reign leave to
return

return home, and did many other acts of beneficence, which greatly heightened him in the people's esteem.

The new Emperor went in person to the islands of Santa Maria and Ponza, and there, with great reverence, gathered the bones and ashes of his mother, and brother Nero, brought them to Rome, and with extraordinary pomp deposited them in the mausoleum of Augustus.

Falling dangerously ill, multitudes of people came every day crouding about the palace, inquiring after his health, and bemoaning his misfortune ; and his recovery was followed with the most pompous demonstrations of joy.

What poor short-sighted creatures are men ? They did not see that Caligula was saved for a time to be their scourge. Either his brain was disordered by his late malady,

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or

or he now threw off the mask, and shewed himself in his natural colours.

His fury fell first upon Gemellus the twin, who was now about seventeen years of age. The moment before he made the youth kill himself, he embraced him tenderly, declaring that his life was as dear to him as his own.

His uncle Claudius too was in some danger ; but being a man of a harmless disposition, and weak intellects, he said he would keep him by way of a buffoon or laughing-stock.

At the exhibition of the public shews, there being a want of criminals to be cast amongst the wild beasts, and devoured as usual, Caligula caused some of the spectators to be seized, and thrown amongst them. At the same time, he caused strict search to be made through the city for all the old, infirm, blind, and indigent people
that

that could be found ; part of whom he gave immediately as food for the wild beasts ; reserving the rest to be a meal of meat for them at another time—declaring that he did this from a sincere attachment to the public good, which he said was greatly hurt by so many useless mouths.

He had married, during the late reign, Junia, the daughter of Silanus. And now his father-in-law taking upon him to check this savage barbarity, got nothing for his pains but an express order to kill himself.

His grandmother Antonia, taking the like freedom, he went to her, and treated her so harshly, as occasioned her death.

Macro, to whom he owed his life, as well as his crown, taking it likewise into his head to check his career, and dictate to him, was, for his friendly interposition, sacrificed, with his wife, and all his family, to the tyrant's vindictive rage.

The

The tyrant, in the midst of his wild and barbarous pursuits, enjoyed little or no repose. He spent a great part of the night sitting upon his bed. Longing extremely for the day, he frequently rose, and wandered through the galleries of his palace. When he chanced to fall asleep, he was tormented with frightful dreams.

He was himself so sensible of the weakness of his mind, that he sometimes expressed a desire to retire to some solitude, in order, if possible, to regain his reason, which seemed to be entirely lost. He had been troubled, when a child, with the falling sickness; and in his youth was subject to fainting fits. However, he took too great a delight in sporting with the lives of his people to think seriously of retiring, although he was himself sensible of the necessity of such a measure for his recovery.

One day, a victim being brought to the altar, and ready to be offered, he appeared

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unexpectedly among the rest in the habit of a priest ; and taking hold of the axe as if he meant to kill the heifer, he in a moment changes his object, and with a furious blow lays the priest dead at his feet.

One night, at supper, he burst into a loud fit of laughter ; and one of the consuls sitting just by, begging, with great respect, to know the cause of his mirth ? Why, says he, because with the nod of my head I can have your throat cut.

Calpurnius Piso, marrying one Livia Orestilla, invited the Emperor to the wedding, who, after the solemnity, caused the bride to be carried to the palace, where he married her himself. He divorced her a few days after ; and then banished both her and Piso, for presuming to live together.

His marriage with Caesonia is still more remarkable : She was neither beautiful nor
young

young—She was already the mother of four children by another husband still alive. He married her the very day she was delivered of Julia, the youngest of her four children ; at the same time declaring himself to be the father of the child.

To supply his wants, for he used to scatter his money by handfuls, he converted his palace into a gambling-house, inviting to it all the rich and the affluent, with whose lives and estates he made equally free.

Caligula was no longer a fit name. He set up for divine honours by the name of Jupiter. He erected a temple for his own worship ; named priests for the service of the new deity ; and in this number was his horse Incitatus.

This favourite horse he often invited to his table, fed him with gilt oats, and gave him for drink the most delicious wines, in
cups

cups of gold. His stable was all of marble, his manger ivory, his coral was adorned with pearls, and his coverings were of rich purple. A great number of attendants were assigned him; and he was supplied with complete sets of the most magnificent furniture, in order that he might entertain company in a manner equal to his high rank; for he was to be raised to the consulship had Jupiter lived another year.

This same Jupiter valued himself highly upon his eloquence, and could not bear to see any body shine or rival him in his beloved talent. Being present one day in the senate, whilst Seneca was pleading in a most masterly manner, the jealous fool was so provoked, that he would have caused the best of men to be killed, had not a courtesan assured him that Seneca was infected with a disease that would soon corrupt his body.

C H A P. XVI.

CASSIUS CHÆREA, tribune of a praetorian cohort, was amongst the first to think seriously of ridding the world of a tyrant, who was every day exhibiting the strongest proofs that he was in his heart the declared enemy of the human race. The Emperor himself provoked him by repeated affronts, to enter the sooner into a plot against his life ; for he often reproached him with meanness of spirit, and called him coward, and such like names.

When it was Chaerea's turn to come for the parole, the Emperor, by way of rail-lery, gave some obscene word, or the name of some famous prostitute ; so that the soldiers used to divert themselves, guessing
what

what word Chaerea would bring, and could not help laughing when it was delivered.

Chaerea was naturally brave, and had often distinguished himself in the late reign in the German wars. But he had a defect in his voice, which was soft: He was good-natured, and was often shocked at the cruelty of his Prince, to which, by his office, he was frequently obliged to be the witness as well as the minister. It was this softness of speech and good nature that drew upon him the Emperor's raillery.

However, Chaerea was not so much affected at any personal insults offered to himself, as at the unjust and barbarous executions he was obliged to see executed. It was this that made him think of the tyrant's destruction. He communicated his design to a few friends, and, to his great joy, found every one of them eager to support him in the plot. But an accident had nearly detected it before it was well formed.

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Propedius,

Propedius, a senator of great distinction, was accused by one Timidius of having uttered injurious speeches against the Emperor. Quintilia, a celebrated actress, was the only evidence he produced. But she, when questioned before a judge, declared she never heard any such words.

Hereupon Timidius required that she might be examined by torture. This disagreeable duty was committed to Chaerea, which affected him the more, as Quintilia was engaged in his own plot, and might divulge it if racked without mercy; and, to shew her the least favour, might cost him his life.

Quintilia herself found means, in some measure, to quiet his fears; for, as she was going to the torture, she trode on the foot of one of the conspirators, thereby hinting that no torments should extort from her a discovery of the plot.

In short, she bore the rack with great constancy ; said nothing to the prejudice of Propedius, or any of the conspirators ; and, being carried to the Emperor, he pitied her deplorable condition, and dismissed her with a sum of money.

This scene of torture afflicted Chaerea so much, that he determined to lose no time in giving the intended blow. He imparts his design to his brother officers, and even to Clemens, the commander in chief of the praetorian guards, who all agreed in the propriety of the step, there being no other way to secure their own lives and fortunes.

As the sports to be celebrated in honour of Augustus were just at hand, this, after various consultations, was thought the most seasonable time to kill the tyrant. These sports lasted four days, and commenced on the twenty-first day of January.

It

It was not Chaerea's turn to go up to the Emperor for the word till the twenty-fourth, the last day of the sports ; and this was the day fixed upon, in regard Chaerea was thought the fittest person to give the stroke, being bolder and more resolute than the rest.

Caligula appeared on that day more gay and better humoured than usual. The spectators were much taken with the affability and complaisance he shewed to all who approached him. He took his place in the theatre, attended by his uncle Claudius and other grandees, amongst whom were some of the conspirators. Pomponius Secundus, one of the consuls, sat at his feet, and often kissed them.

Besides the tragedy of Cinyrus, the same that was acted before Philip King of Macedonia, the day on which he was killed by Pausanias, there was to be exhibited, in the night,

night, a piece, representing some fabulous accounts of the infernal regions.

The Emperor took great delight in these representations, and had ordered that the sports should continue the whole night, with design, as was believed, to appear on the stage in person, and display his agility in dancing, upon which he highly valued himself.

As it was his custom, between the acts, to go out to his apartment, in order to bathe and refresh himself, Chaerea waited impatiently for this opportunity, and frequently stole out of the theatre, to put himself in his way.

On the present occasion, however, Caligula was so well entertained, that he could not think of leaving the shews, and told those that sat by him, that he would not bathe till they were over. At the same time he sent for some refreshment, which
he

he shared with those about him. Amongst these was Minucianus, one of the conspirators, who observing Chærea go out, rose, and was just going to acquaint him with the Emperor's resolution ; but Caligula taking hold of his robe, bid him sit down again, which he did out of respect for the present ; but soon after got up and went out.

He found Chaerea in the passage, and told him how things stood. Hereupon the resolute tribune declared, he would instantly advance into the theatre, and strike the tyrant in his seat. This bold proposal was approved of. But as they were stepping in, word was brought, that the Emperor and his train were on their way out to refresh a little.

Upon this the conspirators drew together, and pretending to clear the way for the Emperor, shoved off such as they thought most likely to befriend him.

Caligula

Caligula came forth walking behind his uncle Claudius, and some persons of the first rank, whom he had invited to accompany him. Upon entering the palace, he desired his attendants to step into his apartment, whilst he himself ran up to a gallery which led to a private room, in which were some Asiatic youths, just arrived for the purpose of acting and dancing upon the stage. He was so much pleased with them, that he would have instantly returned with them to the theatre, to see them perform. But they humbly begged leave to warm themselves first by the fire, it being a pretty cold night.

Chaerea seized the present opportunity, and ran up stairs for the parole. The Emperor gave him a word as usual, reflecting upon his effeminacy and want of courage. Chaerea wounds him immediately in the neck with his sword. Caligula was trying to make his escape by flight, when

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when Sabinus, another of the conspirators, rushed in and threw him down upon his knees. Then Chaerea with another stroke broke his jaw-bone. At this moment they fell upon him like bears, and mangled his body even after it was dead.

He was killed in the twenty-ninth year of his age, having reigned nearly four years.

The conspirators had just time to conceal themselves in the house of Germanicus, till the friends of the deceased had time to discharge their first blast. These were his littermen, and his German guards called the Celtic band, to whom the deceased had been profusely liberal with his money.

These men entering the palace, and seeing the corpse of their prodigal prince extended on the floor, mangled and bloody, they
with

with great violence fell upon every body they met. L. Asprenas who had been lately consul, Norbanus and Antei^{us}, two illustrious senators, were the first victims to their rage; men nowise concerned in the Emperor's death, and were come thither merely out of curiosity.

Mean time the people at the mock shews, little thinking of the real tragedy just acted, were suddenly invested by the enraged soldiers, who threatened to sacrifice the whole assembly to the manes of their massacred general. But a public herald clad in deep mourning, starting up in the theatre, proclaimed the Emperor's death, and commanded the people to retire to their houses, and the soldiers to their quarters. The herald was obeyed.

King Agrippa came to the palace soon after the Emperor's death, and recollecting the many favours he had received at his
L hands,

hands, he caused the body to be carried out to the Lamian gardens, and there erecting a pile in haste, he, while the body was but half burnt, buried it on the spot, to prevent its falling into the hands of the mob.

CHAP.

C H A P. XVII.

IN the mean time the two consuls for the time, Pomponius Secundus, and Sentius Saturninus, called together the senators, with a view that instant to restore the old republican form of government. They were not well met, when the populace and soldiery came and cried aloud for vengeance against the murderers of the late Emperor. The Senate was at the point of passing sentence against the conspirators as traitors, when Valerius Asiaticus, a senator of great distinction, stood up and spoke warmly in favours of the brave patriots, who had thus freed their country of the very worst of tyrants, and exhorted the fathers to shew no regard to the blind multitude, whose delight is in a prodigal prince.

Roused

Roused by this speech, and the idea that there was yet a man in Rome bold enough to speak his mind, the senators with one voice, decreed that Chaerea and his associates should be publicly honoured for the very important service they had done the state. Then Saturninus, in a long speech, set off the advantages of liberty, with respect to their lives and fortunes ; and, on the other hand, he painted in the blackest colours the horrors of tyranny ; shewing, by examples so recent, that neither wealth nor indigence were securities against it.

Animated by this speech, the fathers proceeded at once to extinguish the monarchy, and to rear upon its ruins their own ancient authority. They gave the command of the city guards to Chærea, who, upon the breaking up of the Senate, came to the consuls for the parole, who gave the word *liberty*.

C H A P.

C H A P. XVIII.

BUT all this while the soldiers in the camp were counteracting the work of the Senate. They wanted an Emperor from whose bounty they might share a little longer the spoils of their country. It has been observed, that, whilst Caligula was putting such to death as might dispute the throne with him, he kept his uncle Claudius to be a laughing stock.

We parted last with this same Claudius as he was going into one of the apartments of the palace a minute or two before the murder of his nephew. He was amongst the first who heard of that event; and, being naturally timorous, and almost trembling to death with fear, he slipped away softly to conceal himself behind some hangings in

in a dark corner of the palace. Here he heard very well the noise of feet; but, to heighten his fears, if that were possible, he chanced gently to draw aside the hangings, and saw some German soldiers passing just by, carrying the head of L. Asprenas upon the end of a pole.

Now it was that he stood motionless, scarce daring to breathe, when a common soldier, by name Gratus, looking for plunder, cast an eye on his feet, seized and dragged him from his hiding place to the light. Poor Claudius never doubted but that he was going to be killed, and was already nearly dead with fear. Mean time the soldier remembering the face of Claudius amidst all the colouring of the deepest terror, immediately, as if inspired, declared him Emperor, and got his comrades to do the same. Then they put him in a chair, and by turns carried him to the camp of the praetorian guards, where he was well received.

King

King Agrippa having just buried the remains of the late Emperor, arrived at the camp about the same time, and waiting directly upon Claudius, urged him by all means to seize the present opportunity.

Honest Claudius wanted very much to get rid of all this importunity, which served only to heighten the zeal of the soldiery for his advancement. He yielded at last, and was proclaimed in the camp the day after Caligula's death.

Mean time, the senators, overjoyed at so near a prospect of liberty restored, were all of a sudden alarmed with the cries of the mob, who hearing of the measures of the camp, declared likewise for Claudius, saying, that it was better to have one prince than a great many tyrants.

The Senate, however, continued firm to their last resolves, in support of which they determined to hazard a war with Claudius.

Mean

Mean time, some of the coolest of the senators moved to send for King Agrippa, and advise with him in so nice an affair.

The King obeyed the first summons, and came straight to the Senate, finely dressed and perfumed, as if it had been his first appearance for the day. Pretending ignorance, he wondered what was become of Claudius, and insinuated that he feared he was killed.

The Senate related to him the part that was just acted in the camp, and craved his opinion with regard to their own transactions.

The King seemed greatly surprised at what was done in the camp; declared that he was ready to venture his life and fortune in support of the Senate and the public liberty: But, starting difficulties, and holding out the dangers of a civil war, he wished rather to accommodate matters by

a deputation to Claudius. He even offered to charge himself with the negociation; and did not doubt but that he would prevail with Claudius to resign the empire to the Senate as their ancient right.

The Senate accepted his offer, and despatched him the same day to the camp, along with two tribunes of the people, Veranius and Bruchus.

On this occasion the King acted treacherously towards the Senate: For, when the tribunes had acquitted themselves honourably, by representing to Claudius the evils under which the state had groaned in the late reigns, and besought him to restore their privileges without bloodshed; the King took him aside, and, in a private audience, encouraged him to stick fast to the imperial dignity; assured him that the cry of the people, as well as that of the army, was strong in his favours; therefore, en-

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treated him to answer the deputies with all the majesty of an Emperor.

Claudius followed the King's advice, which gave great offence to the senators, who that moment resolved upon a war. But the populace, surrounding the place where they were assembled, cried aloud for an Emperor. Even the gladiators and city guards, upon whom the Senate chiefly relied, ran headlong with the multitude. Chaerea's authority was now at an end.

The senators gave over all farther thoughts of liberty, and hastened to the camp to compliment their new sovereign. But the soldiery received them with insults; wounded some of them; and would have killed the Consul Pomponius Secundus, who was the most violent for liberty, had not Claudius himself rescued him; and, receiving him with marks of the highest respect, seated him next to himself.

Claudius

Claudius returned with them to the city, which he entered in a kind of triumph, attended by the praetorian guards, and a vast concourse of people of all ranks.

The new Emperor in his heart approved of the murder of Caligula; yet, as it was the common cause of all crowned heads to punish traitors, he called a council of his friends in the palace to pass judgment upon the regicides. Chaerea was condemned and executed; as was likewise one Lupus, who murdered Caesonia the wife of Caligula, and Julia their little daughter. Upon their death the conspirators imagined they had extinguished all remains of the tyrant, never once suspecting the smallest danger from Claudius.

CLAU.

CLAUDIUS.

C H A P. XIX.

THE new Emperor would suffer nobody to come near him till carefully searched; ever dreading that they might have some deadly weapon concealed under their garments. Nor would he for some time hazard his life in the Senate, because Julius Caesar had been killed there.

This fear of death did not make him so contemptible as his want of judgment in the administration of justice. Nevertheless he often seated himself in the tribunal to hear and decide in the most intricate cases. A Greek one day pleading before him, not
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only reproached him with ignorance; but called him, to his face, Old Fool, and sometimes worse names. At another time, a Roman knight, thinking himself wronged by his sentence, had the impudence to throw his pen knife at him, which wounded him in the cheek. The Emperor never once repented these gross insults.

After all, Claudius was a man of great erudition. He wrote some books in the Latin and Greek languages, which were far from being contemptible. His great weakness respected the affairs of common life, in which he discovered the greatest stupidity. His mother Antonia used to call him a human monster, just begun by Nature, but never finished. He had been long sickly in his younger years. Hence that timorousness which never left him; owing to his being long kept by women and freed-men, who cherished in him childish fears, that even grew with him as he advanced in life.

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He was born at Lyons, in the bosom of the camp, and was respected by the soldiery, not for any military virtues he possessed in his own person, but on account of the high reputation and great popularity of his father Drusus, and his brother Germanicus. His grandmother Livia could not bear the sight of him; and the kindest word Augustus ever gave him was, Misellus, or poor wretch!

Claudius rewarded King Agrippa's zeal for his advancement, by adding to his dominions Judea and Samaria, which had been formerly possessed by Herod the Great, his grandfather. He gave, at the same time, to Agrippa's brother, Herod, the principality of Chalcis, at the foot of Mount Libanus; and granted to both the privilege of sitting in the Roman Senate; King Agrippa in consular, and Herod in praetorian ornaments.

C H A P. XX.

THERE were not less than thirty-five senators, and about four hundred Roman knights, put to death in this short reign of fourteen years. All this havoc is charged to the account of the wives and favourites of the Emperor. A centurion having one day executed a man of consular dignity, came directly to Claudius, and told him that he had just executed his orders. Wretch! cried the Emperor, I gave nor signed no such orders. In this manner was the world governed during the above space.

Claudius, at his coming to the empire, was married to Messalina, a woman not without some share of beauty, but loose and infamous in her conduct. Only some of
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the most remarkable parts of her history shall be marked out.

The chief of the Emperor's favourites and freed-men were, Narcissus his secretary, Pallas his financier, Callistus receiver of requests, Possides the eunuch, Felix, Harpacras, and Polybius. These men, particularly the two first mentioned, enjoyed the power of the sovereign. Each of them was richer than the Emperor himself; who, once complaining of his poverty, was told that he might be rich enough could he prevail with his freed-men to take him as a partner.

Messalina and the freed-men soon began to take advantage of the weakness of the Emperor, to the destruction of every one who came under their displeasure.

The wife of Appius Silanus dying, the Emperor would have him marry next Domitia Lepida, the mother of Messalina: But, unhappily,

unhappily, Messalina fell in love with him herself, and disclosed her passion. Silanus rejected her impure solicitations with disgust, which so enraged her, that she resolved upon his ruin, and effected it in the following manner :

Narcissus rushed into Claudius's chamber one morning by break of day, as if he had been in a great fright, and told the Emperor, who was still in bed, that he had dreamed Silanus designed to murder him that very day. Messalina, pretending to hear the freed-man's account with great surprise, assured her husband, that she had been terribly frightened with the same dream for several nights together.

Mean time, Silanus, in consequence of orders sent to him the day before by the secretary, suddenly came in ; and the Emperor, not expecting him at that hour, was so terrified, that he immediately granted a warrant for his execution. The unfortunate Silanus, who was one of the greatest men

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in Rome, was that moment seized, and put to death.

Claudius the same day acquainted the Senate with what had passed, and publicly thanked Narcissus for watching over his safety even in his sleep.

The nobility, thinking their lives and estates precarious under a weak Prince, entirely guided by his wife and freed-men, resolved to deliver themselves in time from the impending danger. Minucianus, who had acted a chief part in the death of Caligula, and had since been judged by the Senate equal to the empire, was at the head of the conspiracy. He engaged in it Furius Camillus Scribonianus, governour of Dalmatia, and with him a great number of knights and senators.

Camillus being at the head of a powerful army, openly avowed his design ; and, having assured his troops, that his only
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view was to restore Rome to her ancient liberty, they took an oath of allegiance to him. As he was well acquainted with the timorous temper of Claudius, he wrote him a letter filled with threats and reproaches, declaring that he would put him to a cruel death if he did not instantly resign the empire, and betake himself to a private life.

The Emperor was so terrified with this letter, that he assembled his friends in great haste, to deliberate whether he should resign the sovereign power to Camillus.

Whilst the Emperor was almost frantic with despair, word was brought him, that the soldiers of Camillus not being able, by some strange accident, to remove their ensigns when ordered to march, thought it so bad an omen, that they believed the gods were against the revolt, and fell upon their officers, most of whom they cut in pieces. Camillus himself found means to escape to the island of Issa on the coast of Dalmatia, whither

whither he was pursued, and stabbed in the arms of Junia his wife, by a common soldier.

Minucianus, and most of the conspirators, laid violent hands upon themselves. Some were seized and executed. Some, by purchasing with large sums the favour of Messalina, and the Emperor's freed-men, never were inquired after, though notoriously guilty. On this occasion, many innocent knights and senators were, under pretence of being conspirators, stripped of their estates by the rapacious Messalina and Narcissus, and either banished or executed without mercy.

Claudius recalled from banishment his two nieces Agrippina and Julia, who had been confined by their brother Caligula to the island of Ponza. But Messalina grew so jealous of Julia, because of her great credit at court, that she made her weak husband send her back to Ponza, on pre-
tence

tence that she kept a criminal correspondence with Seneca. At the same time, Seneca himself was banished to the island of Corsica, where he indulged, till a change at court, in his literary studies. It was here he composed his satires against Claudius, which visibly betray his private rancour and resentment ; all the world knowing, that Claudius was of himself a very harmless and inoffensive man.

C H A P.

C H A P. XXI.

AT court there was no way of making a figure but by the arts of flattery. One must praise and extol every thought and action of Messalina to obtain preferment. In the roll of flatterers, Lucius Vitellius stood in the first rank. He once begged of Messalina, as the greatest favour she could bestow upon him, that she would grant him the honour of pulling off her shoes. Messalina was well pleased to see a man of his quality proud of that office. Vitellius improved the matter, by keeping ever after one of her shoes in his bosom; often pulling it out even in the Senate, and kissing it.

Those who, in their hearts, detested the reigning vices of the court, and were not sufficiently

sufficiently careful to dissemble, were soon perceived, and generally marked down for slaughter. Of these, the most illustrious was Valerius Asiaticus, a native of Gaul, whose singular trial and condemnation ought not to pass unnoticed. He had large possessions in Gaul; but the covetous Messalina grudged him chiefly the fine gardens of the famous Lucullus, which Asiaticus had embellished every where with marks of the greatest taste.

Sosibius, preceptor to the Emperor's son Britannicus, was ordered to bring in his accusation. He charged him with a design of withdrawing himself into Gaul, in order to stir up his countrymen to a revolt; with winking at the licentiousness of the soldiery, and neglecting military discipline; with carrying on an adulterous amour with Poppaea, the mother of that Poppaea who became the wife of the Emperor Nero; and, lastly, with unnatural lust.

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In all these charges, it was generally believed that there was not a single word of truth. But such was the avidity of Messalina to get immediate possession of the gardens, that Crispinus, the commander of the praetorian guards, was despatched with a body of troops to Baiae, from whence he brought Asiaticus to Rome in chains.

He was tried, not in the Senate, but in the Emperor's chamber, in the presence of Messalina. Valerius was a great master of eloquence. He had not gone far in his defence, when both Claudius and the Empress burst into tears. Messalina, fearing that pity and tenderness would get the better of her other passions, left the room; and, upon going out, whispered Vitellius in the ear, not to let the accused escape.

Asiaticus, declaring that he had never before seen any of the witnesses that were produced against him, Sosibius ordered another witness to be sent for, who he said

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was well acquainted with him. He had before hand told his evidence that Asiaticus was bald-headed : So, upon his entering into the room, he desired him to point out which of the company was Valerius Asiaticus ? I have been long acquainted with him, says the witness, and that is he —, pointing to another bald person that happened to be in the room.

The Emperor was now in his own mind fully convinced that Asiaticus was most basely and maliciously traduced, and that there was no truth in his accusation. He therefore began to talk of his acquittal, when the sycophant Vitellius threw himself at his feet, and reminding him of the great services of Asiaticus to the commonwealth, of his attachment to Antonia the Prince's mother, of his glorious exploits in the late British expedition, &c. begged at last, with a flood of tears, which he had at command, that his imperial highness would be graciously pleased to display his great goodness

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of heart, his clemency, his mercy, his pity, his many truly royal and imperial virtues, by indulging so good, so worthy, so very deserving a citizen with the free choice of his own death. The Emperor, without considering the matter, complied with his request ; by which, in effect, he passed sentence of death against a man he thought innocent. Thus, did this great and good man fall a victim to the dark devices of a woman who had long coveted his fine gardens, which was his only crime.

Asiaticus heard his doom with fortitude. He went home and settled his affairs ; and, after supping cheerfully with his friends, went out to view his funeral pile, which he caused to be removed to another place, lest the heat and smoke should hurt his trees, and lessen their cool shade. Having seen the pile erected to his mind, he opened his veins, and bled to death.

It was this same Asiaticus who alone had the courage to defend, in open Senate, the
death

death of the worst of tyrants ; a tyrant, against whom he was fired by a personal affront he had received : For Caligula one day boasted in his presence, and before a large company, that he had violated his wife ; which stung Asiaticus to the quick, and occasioned his being early in the conspiracy, and one of the most zealous in forwarding it, next to Charaea himself.

After the death of Asiaticus, Messalina, by her own authority, caused Poppoea to be killed ; and, when her husband Scipio some time after came to sup with the Emperor, he asked him, Why he did not bring his wife with him ? Scipio gravely answered, She was dead, without daring to tell the circumstances. This Poppoea, like her daughter, was the greatest beauty of the age ; and this made her obnoxious to Messalina, who could bear no rival. If beauty was a crime in her own sex, it was a crime in the other to reject her impure desires, and always punished with death.

C H A P.

C H A P. XXII.

THE measure of her iniquity was now nearly full, and she was crushed under its weight. Her cruelty and avarice, which were excessive, fell rather short of her barefaced lewdness. She fell so desperately in love with Caius Silius, that she obliged him to divorce his wife Silana, in order, and with a view to secure the whole man to herself.

Silius saw his extreme danger the moment the Empress cast her eyes on him. It was equally dangerous to yield to her desires, and to reject them.

Messalina, on her part, did not carry on her amours secretly, and by stealth. She openly frequented the house of Silius, accompanied him often abroad, loaded him
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with wealth and honours—to crown all, went at last so far as to marry him ; not clandestinely, or in the dark, but in the face of the sun, in the face of the city, in the face of the Senate !

This strange marriage was solemnized about the middle of the autumnal season. Representations of the vintage were exhibited. Silius represented Bacchus, and was attended by a choir of mock priests and priestesses. Amongst these last was Messalina herself, with a thyrsus in her hand, her hair loose and flowing.

It might be very well asked, Where was Claudius all this time ? Why, he was down at Ostia, looking after the design of a new harbour. Hitherto his freedmen, and the women of the palace, had very carefully concealed the Empress's enormities ; but her marriage with Silius, during the life of a husband who was Sovereign of the world, wore an aspect so shocking, that they knew not for some time what to say or think !

Callistus

Callistus and Pallas were disposed to keep Claudius still ignorant of his wife's infamy, and by threats oblige her to abandon Silius.

Narcissus was of a different mind. He takes aside Calpurnia and Cleopatra, two courtezans in high favour with the Emperor, and persuades them to make the first discovery.

Calpurnia watching her opportunity, goes up to Claudius, and falling down at his feet, cries out, O heavens, Messalina has married Silius ! Cleopatra, standing on purpose hard by, confirmed what was advanced, which threw the Emperor into a violent fit of surprise !

Narcissus was immediately called in, and very plainly told the Emperor, that he was in a state of divorce. After begging pardon for not telling him ere now of his wife's scandalous conduct, he assured him
that,

that, if he did not make haste to avert the impending storm, Messalina's new husband would be Sovereign of Rome.

Claudius was terribly thunderstruck at all this! He entreated Narcissus, with tears in his eyes, to make immediately the proper steps towards the subversion of all his enemies.

Narcissus suspecting, not without reason, the fidelity of Gaeta, the commander of the praetorian guards, who was entirely devoted to Messalina, demanded the command of the guards for one day only, which was instantly granted. In which quality he took his seat in the Emperor's coach, the better to hinder Vitellius and Coecina, who were in the same coach, from speaking in Messalina's behalf.

They left Ostia with all possible haste; and, in their way to Rome, Claudius often asked if he was still Emperor? Sometimes he

he broke out in great wrath against Messalina; at other times he shewed compassion for her, and their children. Vitellius uttered nothing the whole way but, O heinous! O the iniquity! As these words might be applied two ways, either against the Empress, or her accusers. Narcissus often urged him to speak plain. Vitellius, however, never changed his tone, being as yet very uncertain what course a weak Prince might take.

It is impossible to express the consternation of the Bacchanalians upon being apprised of the Emperor's sudden approach. They all dispersed in a moment. Messalina betook herself to the gardens of Lucullus; but, changing her mind, she thought she could not do better than go directly, and put herself in the Emperor's way, and try to soften him by the means of tears and prayers.

At this moment she was abandoned by all ! No body would console her—no body would even speak to her—every one, as much as possible, avoided her company. She was so fatigued walking on the Ostian road, that she was glad to be taken up into a dung cart.

When the Emperor and his train drew near the city, Messalina unexpectedly appears bathed in tears, crying aloud to Claudius to stop and hear the mother of their dear children Octavia and Britannicus.

Narcissus did not much like the encounter. He knew that if she was once admitted to a hearing, the Emperor would pardon her, and this would be fatal to himself. He therefore, in order to drown her cries, began to storm with great noise on the boldness of Silius, and the vile abominations of Messalina. Claudius frequently

quently asking between hands, if he thought Silius would be Emperor as yet.

Upon their arrival in Rome, Narcissus carried the Emperor directly to the house of Silius, and there shewed him the rich furniture of the imperial palace, the monument's of his wife's prostitutions, and his own disgrace. Having in this manner wrought up his rage, he led him next to the camp, bidding him make his complaint to the soldiery, who the moment he spoke, declared with one voice their abhorrence of the Empress's infidelity, ran directly in search of the criminals; and having dragged Silius, Mneſter the player, and several others, before the imperial tribunal, they were all immediately condemned and executed.

The crime of Silius was so glaring, that he made no defence. Not so with Mneſter the actor, who shewed the marks of Messalina's stripes, which were laid on with-
out

out mercy, to force his compliance with her impure desires. He argued farther in his defence, That whilst she was thus beating him, she cried out in the hearing of the Emperor, that Mneſter obſtinately reſuſed her a ſmall favour, and that Claudius that inſtant ordered him to obey the Empreſs in every thing without reſerve. However, this powerful defence did not avail him any thing in the hour of trial.

The Emperor ſpent the reſt of the day, and the following night, in feaſting and drinking with his freedmen. In the heat of his wine, it came into his head to bid one of his attendants go and tell the unhappy woman, that ſhe muſt come the next day and plead her cauſe.

This meſſage ſtruck Narciffus like a clap of thunder! He dreaded, not without reaſon, a reconciliation, which, conſidering Meſſalina's

Messalina's temper, must have been death to himself. He, therefore, to avoid this danger, ran quickly forth, and gave quite contrary orders. He commanded the tribune and centurions then upon duty to go and despatch Messalina forthwith, it being the Emperor's express orders. At the same time, he sent one Evodus, a freedman in whom he could confide, to see the order strictly executed.

This confident flew in a moment along with the detachment of soldiers to the gardens of Lucullus, where they found Messalina sitting upon the ground, composing a memorial for her husband, not without hopes of regaining his countenance. Her mother Lepida was lying at her feet, bemoaning her condition.

Evodus, without much introductory discourse, ordered the Empress to prepare for death; and her mother Lepida encourag-

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ed her to face death with intrepidity, by preventing the executioner.

Messalina takes hold of a dagger with a trembling hand ! aimed it first at her throat,—then at her breast,—still it would not do. A military tribune standing just by, relieved her anxiety, by running her through the body with a thrust of his sword.

Evodus returned immediately to the palace, and acquainted the court with what was just acted. The Emperor was still sitting at the table, and nowise affected at the news,—never asking any questions, but calling for another bowl of wine, kept it up till past midnight. His insensibility will appear, from his often asking then, and several days afterwards, what was become of Messalina.

In this manner was a stop put to her inglorious career, in the very gardens, for
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the possession of which, she had caused the brave Asiaticus to be sacrificed. Messalina and Claudius were cousins, being both of them descended of Mark Antony, and Octavia the sister of Augustus.

CHAP. P.

C H A P. XXIII.

THE Emperor declared himself publicly for a single life, in all time coming. He even gave every Roman citizen leave to kill him, if he broke this his resolution. But the very night following he forgot what he said,—for calling his freedmen together, he bid them choose for him another wife.

On this occasion, they were divided in their opinions; each striving warmly to name a new Empress, who they were sure would rule the world.

The Emperor liked best the reasoning of Pallas, who strongly recommended his niece Agrippina. And she, the moment she perceived his drift, began already to
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kiss and caress her uncle, and acted in every respect as if she was mistress of the empire. The nuptials were not celebrated publicly, there being no instance amongst the Romans of an uncle marrying his niece. However, Vitellius easily made the Senate enact it into a law for the future.

Agrippina was the daughter of Germanicus. She was first married to Domitius Ahenobarbus, by whom she had Nero who succeeded Claudius. She was next married to Crispus Passienus, whom she secretly despatched, in order to get at once into the possession of the immense fortune he left her by will. She was in high favour with Claudius, even in Messalina's time, to whose jealousy she would have fallen, along with her sister Julia, but for the hurry of other affairs. Agrippina was reserved to fall by other hands. It should have been remembered, that Julia was killed in the island of Ponza, about a year after

after her banishment, by Messalina's orders. Another Julia, the grand-daughter of the Emperor Tiberius, was likewise a female victim to Messalina's unbridled rage.

Agrippina employed her great credit with the Emperor, her uncle and husband, in making him adopt her son Nero in preference to his own son Britannicus, whose sister Octavia was at the same time wedded in marriage to the person adopted. The adoption and marriage were confirmed, and even applauded, by the servile Senate, who likewise honoured the new Empress with the sublime title of Augusta.

The better sort of citizens were much affected at this treatment of Britannicus, who was not only stripped of his birthright, but of his very attendants and preceptors. Of the latter, Sosibius and some others were even put to death. In their room were placed the creatures of Agrippina, who kept

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the youth, now nine years of age, in a kind of prison, giving out that he was subject to the falling sickness.

Mean time Claudius began to bemoan his hard fate with respect to his wives. It was not long when he found that he had got another Messalina. He began to discover a more than ordinary fondness for his dear son, who he had disinheritd merely to please his new wife, whom he soon found out to be a most abandoned woman. She equalled Messalina in lewdness and cruelty, and far exceeded her in avarice and ambition. She kept spies on all her husband's words and actions. Alarmed at his growing affection for his son, and dreading the consequences, she determined to despatch him with poison, in order to make sure her son Nero's succession to the empire.

Locusta, a woman famous for the art of poisoning, undertook to prepare the dose
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in such a manner as to kill him in the space of one, two, three, or four days; and Halotus the eunuch, and taster to the Emperor, took upon him to give the fatal dose in a dish of mushrooms, of which Claudius was remarkably fond.

The Empress not thinking it safe to administer the poison in Rome, began to show a more than ordinary affection for her husband, and earnestly besought him to try the fine soft air and wholesome waters of Sinuessæ for the recovery of his health, which was then, from various causes, much impaired.

Claudius yielded to her request; and Halotus seized his opportunity. But how greatly was the Empress alarmed at seeing her husband alive, and in his ordinary way, at the very time she was made to believe him a dead man! Not doubting but that Locusta had betrayed her, and that she must soon be detected, she sent express for Xenophon,

nophon, the Emperor's physician, and begged of him to take some effectual course.

Xenophon, who was already in the plot, and likewise fearing a discovery, flew in a moment to the Emperor's chamber, and finding him a little inclined to vomit, he takes a feather, and dipping it in potent poison, he bids the Emperor open his mouth, telling him that it was his very life to throw up. Then forcing the poisoned feather down his throat, he expired in a very little time in extreme agony, in the

Year of
Rome
803.

Agrippina caused his death to be kept secret for some time ; and confined young Britannicus in prison, until she fairly ushered in upon the world her son Nero.

NERO.

N E R O.

C H A P. XXIV.

N E R O came to the empire in his seventeenth year; and, young as he was, proved a better Emperor in the beginning of his reign than afterwards. His mother had some time ago recalled from Corsica, the place of his banishment, Seneca, to whom she committed the care of her son's education.

This valuable tutor was at great pains to fill the mind of his pupil with all the sentiments that can adorn the princely station. While the hand of Seneca continued working upon his heart, there was seen such
acts

acts of clemency and mildness as did great honour to both, and brought Nero into high favour with the citizens.

But how were they alarmed when they still saw the mother ruling, in many instances, in her son's name! In her opinion, Nero could not be firmly established but on the ruins of some great personages, illustrious for their birth and high rank. Unknown to Nero, she caused Junius Silanus, Proconsul of Asia, to be murdered! a man who, for his good nature, was called the Golden Sheep. His crime was, his being allied to the reigning family; and the people began to speak of him as the only fit person to controul a tyrannical woman, whose bloody hands, if not speedily checked, threatened to deluge Rome with the blood of her citizens.

Narcissus reproached Agrippina with the death of his late Prince, whose interests were ever dear to him. In return, she forced

ced him to kill himself, which he did upon Messalina's tomb, much against Nero's will. Several others of both sexes fell; and many more would have fallen to her wild ungovernable rage, had not Seneca, and Burrhus the commander of the praetorian guards, interposed their authority.

The pen of Seneca was employed in all the young Emperor's speeches to the Senate, where they were well received. Nero, like a piece of soft wax, seemed easily to yield to the fine impressions of his preceptor. But, unhappily, one single companion of his youthful pleasures served to efface, and in a few years utterly destroyed, the work of Seneca. This was Otho, the same that came to be Emperor. He used to tell young Nero, that he was no longer a child to be governed by tutors.

Otho introduced the young Emperor to pretty girls, which made him in a manner abandon his wife Octavia, and hurried him
on

on to such excesses as proved fatal to many, and at last to himself.

Nero falling desperately in love with a franchised slave, by name Actae, Seneca thought it adviseable to indulge him with her, to prevent greater mischiefs. Better, however, had he checked him while yet young, and already married ;—for vice standing on a precipice, it is difficult to recover the first fall.

Agrippina was highly offended at her son, not from a virtuous principle, but because she dreaded the power of a concubine. Their continual quarrels produced strange effects. Agrippina began to storm and make use of threats ; and Nero, to appease her, presented her with some of the most brilliant dresses in the palace, which, however, had a quite contrary effect ; for now, in a great rage, she broke forth :
What ! do you mean to divide with me
what

what you wholly owe to my care, my zeal, and assiduity for your adoption !

Nero grew angry in his turn, and proceeded so far as to discard her great favourite Pallas, who managed the treasury, a post in which he had acquired immense wealth.

The downfall of Pallas gave additional fuel to the fire of Agrippina's resentment. She takes the young Britannicus in her arms, and caresses him, talking thus : I have, by my vile arts, stripped the lovely youth of his birthright ; and all this to advance the proud ungrateful son of my own body ! Still, however, Britannicus shall be the man ;—Britannicus shall be Emperor his own dear self.

At this moment, Nero entering by accident into her apartment, she rose, and shook her fist at him ; tossed her hands ; invoked the manes of Claudius, Silanus,

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&c.

&c. whom she had murdered to no manner of purpose; uttering the most dreadful imprecations upon the monster her son.

Nero, sorely vexed at his mother's reproaches, and dreading extremely her revengeful temper, as well as the promising genius of the youth Britannicus, who now began to discover great talents for one of his age, resolved to destroy him by poison.

Nero's fears were increased at the feasts of Saturn. He caused young Britannicus to stand up in the midst of the company, and sing a song. He hoped the boy, unaccustomed as he was to company, and ignorant how to behave himself in public, would expose himself to laughter. But Britannicus, with a becoming modesty, and a noble assurance, though the eyes of the whole court were upon him, raised his voice, and sung a few verses, importing that he was bereft of his natural inheritance, and unjustly deprived

prived of the authority to which he was born. The modest and comely aspect of the youth ; the deep concern he betrayed in every note ; and the reflections which all who were present made within themselves, drew sighs and tears from the whole company. Nero, struck at the youth's fine address, but still more at the verses he had sung, immediately withdrew, as did all the rest of the company, to give free vent to their grief and tears.

Nero, not daring openly to command the execution of a youth of known innocence, he ordered poison to be privately prepared, employing, as his agent, Julius Pollio, tribune of a praetorian cohort, in whose custody was kept, under condemnation for poisoning, the famous Locusta.

Agrippina had already taken care to place about the person of Britannicus such as were void of honour or honesty. The dose was hastily prepared by Locusta, and
given

given the young Prince by the hands of his governours, but without effect.

Hereupon Nero threatened the tribune with immediate death ; and would have ordered Locusta to be executed pursuant to her sentence, had she not undertaken to prepare a dose that should kill as with a dagger.

This fatal preparation was administered at the Emperor's table, where the young Prince fell down dead, to the great astonishment of the company ; Nero pretending it was only a fit of the falling sickness.

Agrippina and the young Empress Octavia were present, but strove to conceal their grief and surprise. Octavia, sad as she was for the loss of her brother, had already learned to dissemble every symptom of grief and tenderness, and every other affection of the soul.

The same day was seen the young Prince's untimely fate and funeral pile, to which his corpse was conveyed in the evening, every thing relating to his funeral having been prepared before hand. His remains were repositied in the field of Mars, without pomp, solemnity, or funeral oration, though he was the last branch of the Claudian family, which had subsisted in great splendour from the time of Romulus, that is, above eight hundred years.

Nero, justified by an edict the hasty despatch of the funeral obsequies, complained, that, in Britannicus, he had lost the support of a brother ; and exhorted the Fathers to cherish, with the greater tenderness, a Prince who alone survived of a family born to sustain the sovereign power.

Nero distributed the great possessions of the deceased Prince, his palaces in Rome, his manors and villas throughout Italy, like spoils taken in war, amongst the chief persons

sons of his court, to purchase by such presents their approbation, or at least their silence. Seneca's acceptance of a very large portion of the estate did him no sort of honour.

A great share, too, was given to Agrippina ; but Nero could by no means whatever reduce his mother's bold domineering spirit. She was vexed at the death of Britannicus, having lost the only rival through whom she could overawe her son. She therefore caressed Octavia, held cabals with her friends, and seemed busy in amassing treasure, as if she had great designs in view.

Her conduct was no secret to Nero, who had spies upon her words and actions. He dismissed her from the palace, and caused her to take up her abode in the house of her grandmother Antonia. Here he sometimes visited her, but never singly, having always a croud of officers about him, and withdrew, after a short compliment.

Agrip-

Agrippina was in a manner deserted in her new habitation. The throng of courtiers who daily frequented her levee, while she lived in the palace, instantly vanished. Few came to console her in her disgrace. A small number of ladies, indeed, used to visit her, from an affected friendship, to watch her words and actions, and carry them, with the usual aggravations of tale-bearers, to the Emperor. Amongst these was Julia Silana, whom Caius Silius had divorced, to marry Messalina, as before related. She was a lady of high birth, great beauty, dissolute morals, and had been long intimate with Agrippina : But, at present, she bore her a grudge, for having diverted Sextius Africanus, a noble youth, from marrying her. To be revenged, she caused two of her creatures, Iturius and Calvisius, to accuse Agrippina of a design to marry Rubellius Plautus, great grandson to Augustus, in order to regain the empire, by her son's destruction.

Nero

Nero seized this opportunity with great avidity to get rid of his mother. But Burrhus, the commander of the praetorian guards, would by no means suffer Agrippina to be killed, until she had a fair trial. On this occasion, her accusation was found to be grounded on malice; and she obtained a triumph over her accusers, by getting them punished according to their deserts.

Nero, regardless of the wise precepts of Seneca, went often a rambling, along with Otho and other dissipated companions. He fell in one night with a lady of distinction walking home with her husband; and, offering to be rude to her, the husband gave him such a drubbing as almost killed him. The Emperor never would have punished the author of his distress, for he was confined to his chamber many days, had not the cowardly husband himself, upon hearing what a great personage he had been in hands with, wrote an apology. Had he
said

said nothing, he would have escaped; but now, since he acknowledged his guilt, in the form of begging pardon, Nero caused him to be despatched.

S C H A P.

C H A P. XXV.

ABOUT this time, Poppaea Sabina, a lady of the greatest beauty in Rome, or perhaps in the world, shone away, and made a figure. Her only deformity was her want of virtue, which, however, she knew at times how to conceal, and thereby ensnared, at pleasure, a croud of admirers. She was first married to Rufus Crispinus, a Roman knight, to whom she had a son; yet abandoned her husband, and lived publicly with Otho, the Emperor's favourite.

Rufus consenting to a divorce, Otho married her, and was continually crying up before Nero the charms of his new wife. The Emperor desired to see her. Better for him had he shunned the sight of her,—avoided her company, as something very dangerous

dangerous to come near. Otho, on his part, did not fail to introduce the Emperor to his wife, whose charms wrought wonders upon the Prince, who insisted upon having her carried to the palace that very night.

Here Poppaea continued a day or two pretty easy, and seemingly well enough pleased with her condition. But this was only to make sure of her conquest. After fettering the Emperor in her chain, she began to turn rusty, and threatened to leave her present quarters, in order to live again with her well beloved husband Otho, who, she said, deserved alone to enjoy her.

This behaviour threw Nero into a most violent passion. And Otho would have been immediately sacrificed to his rage, had not Seneca advised him to send his rival out of the way, upon pretence of honouring him with some foreign government.

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Accordingly, Otho was sent out governor of Lusitania, where, in a public station, he was as much admired for his virtues, as he had before, in a private character, been detested for his vices.

Poppaea gave the Emperor no rest until she accomplished her ends—which were no less than to be made his lawful wife, and share with him the imperial throne. But this was attended with great difficulties. Octavia was still alive, and there was no crime to lay to her charge. Besides, Burrhus told him, that, if he parted with Octavia, he must part with the empire itself, which she brought him. Agrippina was another obstacle. She took Octavia's part, and was continually scolding her son for taking up with such a vile creature as Poppaea.

This same Poppaea, however, had more of the son's heart than his mother, and having constant access to his person, found means

means to work up his hatred to a parent, who, though tarnished with every kind of vice, was still his mother.

Agrippina saw, with extreme concern, Poppaea's growing power, and used such means to regain the countenance of her son as will appear altogether incredible: For, whilst the young Emperor was heated with wine, she came up to him gaily attired, and was going to prompt him to an action, which was hindered by the presence of Seneca, who, observing Nero ready to yield to her impure desires, suddenly introduced Actae, and made him change his object. By this step Agrippina lost entirely the affection of her son, who could hardly afterwards suffer himself to be seen with her—at least till he had a purpose to serve by it.

Poppaea increased his aversion by frequently insinuating that he never could be safe while she lived. He was himself so
con-

convinced of this, that he began to contrive means of killing her. Sometimes he thought of doing it by poison—next moment he thinks of a dagger—but, after some deliberation, it was found that neither of these ways would do. Beside that it was thought dangerous to give such orders, it was suspected that none were hardened enough to undertake them. Then Agrippina was not a simpleton to be taken in a trap. She was always upon her guard, having been long acquainted with the dark devices of the court.

CHAP.

This he thought the most favourable opportunity for the intended parricide.

C H A P. XXVI.

THE Emperor was in the greatest perplexity about the means of getting rid of his mother, when Anicetus, commander of the fleet riding at Misenum offered his opinion and service. He undertook to construct a vessel in such a manner as to make her burst and give way, at pleasure, in the open sea. It was Nero's part to inveigle his mother on board the fatal galley, which he did, by acting some scenes of the rankest dissimulation recorded in history.

At this time, he was just going to celebrate at Baiae the festival of Minerva, called *Quinquatrus*, which began on the nineteen day of March, and lasted five days.

This

This he thought the most favourable opportunity for the intended parricide.

The moment the plot was concerted, Nero assumed an entire new character with regard to his mother. He wrote letters to her, abounding with the tenderest expressions of affection and duty, wishing, in terms seemingly the most sincere, to be reconciled to a mother whom he had so highly provoked.

Agrippina suffered herself to be imposed upon by these flattering appearances, and easily yielded to the pressing instances of her son, who seemed earnestly to want her company at the festival. It was in a kind of rapture that she embarked at Antium, from whence she sailed to Bauli, an imperial villa, situated between the cape of Misenum, and the gulph of Baiae.

Thither Nero made haste to receive her,
—met her on the shore,—presented her his
hand

hand,—embraced, and led her to the castle.

Amongst the imperial vessels rode that which had been contrived by Anicetus the Admiral, more pompous than the rest; as if Nero, by that distinction, meant to do honour to his mother. But she fearing, perhaps, that there might be some plot in the case, refused to go on board; and Nero not insisting upon it, the better to avoid suspicion, she was carried to Baiae, by land, in a sedan.

Here Nero treated her with the greatest respect—entertained her with a variety of diversions—granted all the favours she asked in behalf of herself or her friends—and, in many weighty affairs then upon his mind, asked her advice, as if he laid great stress upon her opinion.

The mother was overjoyed at these marks of her son's goodness, and no longer dis-

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trusted

trusted him ; which he perceiving, he gives private orders to the commander of one of his galleys to run foul of that which had conveyed Agrippina to Bauli, and disable it, that she might be obliged to embark on board the fatal vessel.

The last banquet was drawn out till midnight, when Nero acquainted his mother with the accident that had befallen her galley, and at the same time recommended to her one he had caused to be built purposely for her use. He ordered the Admiral to accompany her as far as Antium.

Nero waited on his mother to the shore, and at parting hung upon her neck—kissed her eyes—her bosom—nor did he take his leave till after numberless protestations of his warmest affection, and most sincere reconciliation.

On this occasion, all nature seemed to be alive, in one of the finest and clearest moon-

moon-light nights that ever was seen, to witness one of the most unnatural crimes that ever was projected.

Agrippina was attended on board by one Lady, Aceronia Polla, who lay at her feet; and Crepercius Gallus, a man, who stood in the steerage. She was discoursing with her companion Polla about Nero—recounting the many marks of his affectionate behaviour, when suddenly, upon a signal given, the deck above their heads began to crack and give way. The man in the steerage was killed on the spot. But Agrippina, and her companion were defended, for some time, by the strength of their bed-posts, which did not so easily yield as had been imagined. Neither did the vessel burst in a moment, and drown the devoted woman, as Anicetus had promised. Besides, such of the mariners as were not let into the plot, obstructed the measures of those that were. The latter, finding themselves defeated in one expedient,

dient, had recourse to another, and that was, to force the vessel down upon one side, and so sink her that way. But the others, looking upon this as madness, counteracted them in such a manner, that the Empress and Aceronia had time to throw themselves softly into the sea. Aceronia, screaming out that she was the Empress, was instantly struck dead with the end of a long pole.

Agrippina soon perceived that her life was the object chiefly aimed at. She therefore kept a profound silence, and escaped with only one stroke upon her shoulder. She was, by the assistance of some fishermen, who happened to be just by, carried safe, by the lake Lucrinus, to a villa of her own upon that coast.

Here she began to reflect upon her late danger—the sudden breaking in of the vessel's deck—the violent efforts that were used to sink her in a calm sea—the fate of
Acero-

Aceronia, mistaken for herself, and design-
edly slain. From all which, she conclu-
ded, that her son's late kindness was mere
affectation, in order to get her on board to
drown her.

However, she thought it most adviseable
to dissemble in her turn, and behave to-
wards her son as if no such plot had ever
existed. She sent her freedman Agerinus
to acquaint Nero with her late disaster, and
to tell him, that, however alarmed he might
be, he might put off visiting her for some
time, as at present she chiefly wanted rest.

Nero had all this time been waiting with
extreme impatience the event of the plot.
When he came to learn that his mother
had escaped, he was struck almost dead
with fear, not doubting but that her restless
spirit would immediately devise some mode
of resentment that might be fatal to him.
In this perplexity, he sent express for Se-
neca and Burrhus, who were as yet stran-
gers

gers to the plot. When they came to the Emperor, they were so struck at what had happened, that they did but look at one another for some time, without speaking!

The matter before them seemed to be of the utmost importance. The Emperor had involved himself in a seemingly inextricable scrape. Burrhus declared that the praetorian guards had still the highest affection for the daughter of Germanicus—and, so far from imbruing their hands in her blood, would probably resent the danger to which she had designedly been exposed, were they once apprized of it.

Anicetus the Admiral was immediately called in. This officer had long hated Agrippina in his heart, and very cheerfully undertook to finish the tragedy he had begun—Nero declaring, he that moment presented him the Roman empire.

At

At this instant Agerinus arrived with his message from the Empress. Nero, to make an advantage of his coming, caused a dagger to be dropt between his legs. Then he gave out that Agerinus was come to assassinate him by Agrippina's orders. On this pretence Agerinus was immediately loaded with irons, and soon after put to death.

Mean time, Agrippina was become very uneasy at not hearing from her son—wondered what kept Agerinus—when, all of a sudden, she sees her villa invested on all sides with a body of armed marines. Now it was that all her domestics left her—even the maid that lay in the room with her ran off with the rest; which Agrippina perceiving, cried out, What! Forsaken by you too!

At this moment Anicetus entered her chamber with some armed men. Agrippina was not insensible of their design, but looking them boldly in the face, says, If you

you are come from the Emperor to be informed as to my health, you may tell him that I am well refreshed and recovered : If upon any bloody design, I will never believe that you are commissioned by my son—my son cannot command a parricide. The assassins gave her no answer ; but placing themselves round her bed, one of them comes over her head a deadly stroke with a great club!

Then Agrippina, exerting all her strength, got up bursting with rage, and cried out, ‘ Here ! ’ exposing her belly, ‘ Strike me on the place that bore and brought forth such a monster as Nero ! ’ She was again answered with repeated blows, which soon put an end to her life.

Here we see a mother put to death, by the cruel orders of her own son ! She herself, this same Agrippina, had sacrificed many innocent persons, and committed crimes of the worst kind—and now we see her

her own body mangled, bruised, and laid lifeless, by the very son for whose sake she had sacrificed them. Little did this unhappy Princess know that, in labouring to advance her son to a throne by all sorts of crimes, she was toiling herself to no other purpose than to make both herself and her son the most miserable wretches in the whole Roman empire. It is true, she erected for her son a most magnificent structure, made up of a great many powerful nations and kingdoms. But upon what foundation !

Every reader will draw from the bare recital of Agrippina's conduct such reflections as will sufficiently deter parents from attempting any thing, in behalf of their children, that is not founded in honour and justice. The death of Agrippina happened in the fifth year of Nero's reign.

C H A P. XXVII.

NERO was quickly stung with the horrors of his guilt ! He began to look wild and ghastly ! Every joint of him trembled ; and he was in continual fear of the avenging furies which haunted him by day and by night, never suffering him to enjoy that calm serenity of mind, without which life is a burthen.

He wrote immediately to the Senate, acquainting the senators with his late danger, his narrow escape, giving out that the death of his mother ought to be looked upon as a public blessing. It was far from doing honour to Seneca, his assisting with his pen in composing this infamous letter.

Such

Such was now the debasement of the once venerable Roman Senate, who sufficiently apprised that there was no such plot against Nero's person, and that he was himself the culprit ; yet they ordained that at all the altars public devotions should be offered for his deliverance ; that the feast of Minerva, during which the pretended conspiracy was detected, should be celebrated with anniversary plays for ever ; that the statue of that goddess in gold should be placed in the senate-house, and close by it that of Nero ; and, lastly, that the anniversary of Agrippina should be inserted in the number of unlucky days.

Thrasea Poetus, one of the senators, who still retained in this age of corruption all the dignity of an antient Roman, could not endure to witness such vile decrees ; and, not having sufficient weight to oppose them, he left the house.

Nero

Nero was quite astonished at the flattery of the Senate, and the kind reception he met with upon his return to the city. From a sense of his guilt he expected a very different treatment. Still, however, the seeds of a guilty conscience kept growing in his breast, to the great disturbance of his inward quiet.

To divert his attention, he had recourse to chariot-driving—singing to the harp in a theatrical habit. He likewise held lewd assemblies, where men and women of all ranks came and gave themselves up to scenes of impurity,

At last he mounted the public stage, taking with him Burrhus, and a party of the guards, whose orders were to watch the looks of the spectators. Not to praise Nero in his theatrical character, was a crime against the state. Burrhus was sad on this occasion ; yet praised whilst he grieved for the poor fool.

Burrhus

Burrhus did not live to see this shameful career for any length of time. His death proved an unspeakable loss; for in his place was put one Tigellinus, a man of infamous character, a great companion of Nero, and a most cruel enemy to the public good.

It was with the greatest concern that Seneca saw the growing profligacy of the court. Being the only virtuous person now in power, he was attacked on all sides by Nero's wicked counsellors, who aimed at the extirpation of virtue itself.

It was alledged against Seneca, that he had amassed wealth far above the condition of a citizen; that he outshone the Emperor himself in the splendour of his house, the rural grandeur of his fields and gardens; that he affected popularity for no good design; that he turned Nero's voice into mockery whenever he sung, and assumed to himself alone the praise of eloquence.

Seneca

Seneca saw this first storm at a distance ; and, before it fell upon his head, begged leave to retire from court. At the same time, he made Nero an offer of his wealth, his fine seats and gardens : But this offer was nobly rejected by Nero for the present, who still he said very much wanted the wholesome councils and useful instructions of his very best of friends.

However, Seneca, finding that his presence became every day more obnoxious to the other courtiers, and that the Emperor himself no longer received him with his wonted affability, thought fit to retire from public affairs, made and received but few visits amongst his wonted friends, devoting his time chiefly to the study of philosophy, in which he made great progress.

The retreat of Seneca doubled the power of Tigellinus, who, the better to gain an absolute ascendant over his Prince, was at great pains prying into his secret fears ; and per-

perceiving that he dreaded Cornelius Sylla, and Rubellius Plautus, the most of all men, he advised him to put them both to death. They were both nearly related to the reigning family. Besides, Sylla was married to Antonia, the daughter of the late Emperor Claudius, by his first wife.

The Roman citizens concluding, at the sight of a comet, that they were soon to have another Emperor, most people talked of Rubellius as the successor. Nero, to prevent this, ordered him to retire to Asia with his wife and family. He sent a party after him, who brought back his head to Nero, who, viewing it, says, I knew not before that Rubellius had so great a nose—What hinders me now to marry Poppaea, a ceremony so long put off through fear of such men as this ?

In like manner Sylla was killed while at table, dreading no danger, by assassins, who
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in six days reached Marfeilles, to which city he was then confined.

After this cruel abuse of power, Nero wrote to the Senate, inveighing bitterly against Sylla and Rubellius, but without any mention of their deaths. The senators knew already all the barbarous circumstances of their assassination ; yet so far from shewing the smallest disapprobation of the Prince's conduct, they decreed processions, and ordered thanks to be publicly offered to the gods for so signal a deliverance, as if Nero had been freed from two dangerous enemies. Whereas Sylla and Rubellius had never discovered the least symptom of treason. They may be said to have fallen victims to their popularity, which, by the bye, they never courted, but could not hinder the people's liking their good qualities, and opposing them to the wretched ones of the reigning Prince.

C H A P. XXVIII.

NERO, finding that his worst actions met with the highest commendations, proceeded next to divorce his wife Octavia, and publicly married Poppaea. Happy for Octavia had she never seen him. He seldom admitted her to his bed ; nor had she any reason to wish for that favour ; for he often attempted to strangle her. As no crime could be laid to her charge, Poppaea bribed one of her domestics to accuse her of a criminal amour with Eucerus, a player on the flute. But all Octavia's maids maintained on the rack their mistress's virtue and unblemished character.

Nero, however, turned her out of the palace, and sent her into Campania under a

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guard ;

guard ; at which the citizens were so highly enraged, that, to avoid their fury, Nero was glad to fetch her back. Hereupon the people were so transported with joy, that they crouded to the temples with thanksgivings ; overthrew the statues of Poppaea ; crowned with flowers those of Octavia, and, carrying her images as it were in triumph, placed them in the great forum, and in the several temples.

Poppaea provoked, or rather frantic, at all this, and fearing that Nero might come to yield to the cry of the people, she forms a new project for the destruction of the innocent Octavia ; and that was, to force Anicetus, the admiral, to own a criminal correspondence with her.

However hardened this murderer of Agrippina might be, it was not without many prayers, tears, and even threats, that he came to confess so gross a falsehood, This second trial ended in Octavia's banishment

ment to the island of Ponza, where she soon after suffered death. Those who were charged with her execution having tied her down, opened her veins: But, as the blood came forth slowly, they hastened her death, by stifling her in the steam of a boiling bath.

Hard enough! a young innocent Princess inhumanly killed in her twenty-second year, having hardly tasted the sweets of one happy day in all the seven years she had lived with Nero. Yet the Senate, as for some notable deliverance, decreed gifts and oblations to the Gods! Fear had now stopped their mouths, or opened them only to the most fulsome strains of flattery. Octavia suffered death on the eleventh day of June;—a day remarkable for another tragedy, six years thereafter, as will be seen in due time.

Anicetus the admiral, as one convicted by his own confession, was banished to the island of Sardinia.

C H A P.

C H A P. XXIX.

NERO, wearied of his metropolis, made a trip to Naples, in order to divert the Neapolitans with his singing and playing upon the harp. And now, as if he had been upon some grand expedition, he set out from Rome, attended with a thousand chariots; the horses and mules shod with silver; his grooms and muleteers clad in the richest cloth of Canusium; attended too by a detachment of the praetorian guards, and a body of African horse most pompously attired.

At Naples he spent several days together in singing to vast crouds; for all the rabble of that city, and its neighbourhood, flocked in great numbers to the show. He entered the public theatre in the morning, and there

there remained till night, taking now and then a little refreshment in the presence of the spectators; frequently telling them, that he would just wash his throat a little, and then give them a much finer air than any they had ever heard in their life. Some Alexandrian youths chancing to praise the sweetness of his voice, he sent over to Alexandria for more of them in great haste; and never failed to give presents, and even pensions, in proportion as he was flattered.

Nero intended next to step over to Greece, there to contend for the prize of music at the Olympic games. Having advanced as far as Beneventum, Vatinus, one of his courtiers, detained him with a grand shew of gladiators. This Vatinus was originally bred in a cobbler's stall; but, being in his person remarkably crooked and ill shaped, he was at first ushered into court in the character of a buffoon. Here he played his part so well, that he rose in wealth, and power to do mischief, above
all

all the ministers in Nero's court, Tigellinus alone excepted. Before Nero left Beneventum, he forced Torquatus Silanus to kill himself. He was his own near relation, and lived splendidly, and that was his crime!

Nero had but few moments free from pangs of the deepest kind. It was owing to some sudden panic that he put off, for the present, his journey to Greece, and returned to Rome, where he publicly told the citizens that he could not find in his heart to deprive them any longer of his agreeable company.

It was soon after his return that Tigellinus made him a feast, the like of which had rarely or never been seen. It was held in the lake of Agrippa, on board of a very large vessel built on purpose, and towed by other vessels finely embellished, and rowed by professed catamites, ranged according to their different ages, and skill in their abominable profession.

On

On one side of the lake stood brothels, filled with ladies of superior rank: On the other side were seen vast crouds of common harlots, stark naked. When night came on, an huge blaze of lights illuminated the whole scene, and turned night into day. Now nothing was to be heard but the sweet symphony of songs and musical instruments.

A few days after this memorable banquet, Nero was not ashamed to put himself in the habit of a woman; and, as such, was publicly, and with the usual forms, married to a pathic of his contaminated crew, named Pythagoras. And, as he was the wife of one pathic, so was he the husband of another, named Sporus, whom he married with great solemnity; kept him in his palace, in the attire of an Empress, ever after; and always carried Sporus along with him in the same carriage when he went abroad.

C H A P.

C H A P. XXX.

Year of
Rome
813.

AS if the world was not already sufficiently convinced that Nero was the declared enemy of mankind, he employed worthless wretches to burn his metropolis. We may judge of the havock occasioned by the fire, from its raging nine days amongst houses built mostly of timber. Great numbers of people of all ages and sexes expired amongst the flames. Others lost their property. Many who escaped had no house to go to; so flew to the adjacent fields in a kind of despair.

The fire was at last, with infinite labour, extinguished, fore against Nero's will, who with pleasure beheld the burning from the tower of Maecenas. The only consolation he gave the poor sufferers was, that, if they would

would patiently let the burning go on, he would, at his own expences, clear away the rubbish and dead bodies.

Upon the ruins of the city Nero erected his golden palace; which, when fitted up for his reception, he said he now began to live like a man. He likewise assisted in rebuilding the city upon a much more regular plan than before. But, to defray the expences of so many works, he pillaged the whole empire without mercy. The very temples of the gods were stripped of all their rich ornaments and treasures, which, with the statues and images of the gods themselves, were brought to Rome to be melted down, and turned into money.

Seneca saw with great grief and concern the madness of his late pupil, and wanted much to withdraw to a villa of his own remote from Rome. Nero would not consent to it; not that he wanted Seneca near him for his advice,—the man whose very

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presence

presence reproached him; but that he might the more easily get him despatched, by keeping him near the city.

Most people beheld Nero's mismanagement with real concern; and, to get rid of him, a conspiracy was formed soon after the burning.

It was headed by Caius Piso, who was not only allied to most of the great families in Rome, but, because of his personal qualities, much beloved by the people. He was a great orator; tall in stature; of a graceful and noble address; liberal and generous without profusion; and needed only to be seen to command respect. But, with all these fine qualities, he was, in his private character, a debauchee, and often sung to his friends attired like an actor in a tragedy, which rather hurt him with the grave and reserved.

Piso

Piso was not the first who projected the Emperor's death; but he readily came into it, at the persuasion of those who were most forward in their country's cause. These were Subrius Flavius, tribune of a praetorian cohort; Sulpicius Asper, a centurion; Lucan the poet; Lateranus, consul-elect; Scevinus, Quinctianus, and many more who daily joined them.

Lucan and Quinctianus were fired against Nero from private causes. Nero considered Lucan as his rival in poetry, and had forbid the publication of his poems. With respect to Quinctianus, the Emperor, like Satan exposing vice, wrote a virulent satire against him, setting forth his scandalous and unnatural lewdness.

Nothing so much encouraged the conspirators as the bringing over to their party Fenius Rufus, one of the commanders of the praetorian guards.

Epicharis

Epicharis was let into the secret too,—a woman till now devoid of honour or honesty,—but, for her zeal and steadiness on this occasion, well deserves to be remembered. She insisted warmly for the speedy execution of the plot. But the conspirators appearing too slow, for her motions, she left Rome, and hastened into Compania, in hopes of corrupting the officers of the fleet, lying at Misenum. Here she fell in with one of the murderers of Agrippina, by name Proculus, who, though he had the command of a thousand marines, thought himself ill rewarded for killing the Empress. Opening his heart freely to Epicharis, he made bitter complaints that he was overlooked by Nero. Epicharis seized the moment to foment his discontent; and placing an entire confidence in him, disclosed the plot, but concealed the conspirators names.

Proculus, the instant he got the secret, hastened to Rome, and acquainted the Emperor

peror with his danger. But his discovery signified nothing; for, when Epicharis was summoned and confronted with the informer, she boldly denied the charge, and seemed surprised at her accusers impudence. However, Nero believed the fact, though not proved, and caused Epicharis to be detained in prison.

Mean time the conspirators were in the utmost terror, and resolved to despatch the tyrant as soon as possible. After a long debate, they at last fixed upon the anniversary sacred to Ceres, which was always solemnized with Circensian games, at which Nero constantly attended, giving free access to every body during the gaiety of the sports. Their design was to be executed in this manner; Lateranus being in poor circumstances, on pretence of imploring relief, was to fall down at the Prince's feet, and, while he thought of no such attempt, unfix his legs, and bring him to
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the ground,—then the rest were to rush in and destroy him.

Scevinus earnestly claimed the honour of giving the first blow; for having taken a dagger out of a temple, he carried it constantly about him, not doubting but it was consecrated to the execution of some grand exploit.

The day before that on which they were agreed to kill Nero, this same Scevinus, upon returning home, after a long conference with Antonius Natalis, sealed his will, then unsheathing his dagger, he complained that it was blunt and rusty, and ordered his freedman Milichus to ground and sharpen it at the point. He ordered likewise a supper more sumptuous than usual to be got ready,—presented his favourite slaves with their liberty, and others with sums of money.

All

All this while, his countenance appeared sometimes cheerful,—sometimes cloudy,—his manner was confused,—he was continually shifting in his discourse from one subject to another, never attending to any. Whence all who were present concluded that his mind was fraught with some secret enterprize,

The freedman Milichus thought himself sure that some plot was in agitation; for, besides sharpening the dagger, he was ordered to prepare bandages for wounds, and applications for stopping blood. Never doubting but that the life of Nero was aimed at, he resolved to secure to himself the merit of a discovery.

Early in the morning, Milichus ran to the gardens of Servilius, where Nero then lived; and being at first refused admittance, he insisted upon the great importance of the discovery he was going to make. Then the porters conducted him to
Epaphroditus

Epaphroditus the secretary, who immediately introduced him to Nero himself, to whom he related all the circumstances he had observed,—shewed the dagger, and desired that the criminal his master Scevinus might be sent for.

Scevinus was terribly alarmed, when a band of soldiers came and carried him hastily to the Emperor. However, he got so far the better of his fright, and assumed such firmness before the Emperor, that the treacherous servant would have been baffled, had not his wife reminded him of the long conference between his master and Natalis, and that both lived in great intimacy with Piso.

Hereupon Natalis and Scevinus were examined apart, as to the subject of their conference. As their answers differed, they were put in irons, and threatened with the rack ! the sight of which neither of them being able to bear, they discovered
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ed the whole order and progress of the conspiracy. Natalis confessed first, told how far Piso was concerned, and hoping to gain the Emperor's favour, named Seneca. Scevinus named the rest, of whom Lucan, Quinctianus, and Senecio stood out a good while denying the charge, but yielded upon a promise of impunity; and then, to make amends for their former backwardness, they informed against their dearest friends: Lucan against Attilia his own mother, Quinctianus against Gallus, and Senecio named Annius Pollio.

Mean time Nero, recollecting that Epicharis was detained in prison, and supposing that the tender body of a woman would never endure the rack, he ordered that she should be rent and mangled with all sorts of torments.

But, such was her resolution, that, in spite of stripes, fire itself, and all the torture they could invent, she uttered not a

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word about the plot. Next day she was brought in a chair to the place of torture, but she, with a girdle that bound her breasts, framed a noose for her neck, and seizing her opportunity, fastened it to the top of the chair, hung upon it with all the weight of her body, and by this contrivance soon extinguished the small remains of her life.

Thus a woman, once a slave, suffered the most exquisite torments cruelty could invent, and death itself, to protect persons whom she scarce knew ! Whilst men born free, Roman knights and senators, without once feeling the torture, betrayed their dearest friends, their nearest relations.

Lucan and Quinctianus were daily making new discoveries, at which Nero was so terrified, that he doubled his guards,—posted bands of soldiers all round the city,—lined the banks of the Tiber,—and ordered parties of horse and foot to scour
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the fields, and range through the streets and squares night and day.

A tribunal was erected in the Emperor's gardens, to which the accused were brought in droves to be examined, and receive their doom. The judges were Nero himself, Tigellinus, and his colleague Feni-
us Rufus, who not being yet detected, proved harder to the criminals than the other two. Nay, to him it was owing that Nero was not stabbed even during the examination of the conspirators ; for the tribune Flavius, who attended, and like Rufus was not so much as suspected, having demanded of his commander Rufus, by signs, if he might strike the tyrant, was by signs checked, when he had already grasped the hilt.

Piso, the moment he saw a party coming to apprehend him, opened the veins in both his arms, and bled to death. Lateranus was executed with such hurry, that he was not even permitted to embrace his children.

His

His head was cut off at two blows by the tribune Statius.

Seneca fell next. Natalis was the only evidence that appeared against him; and all he said was, that he had been sent a message by Piso to Seneca. And what was the intent of it? Why Piso wished to renew his intimacy with Seneca; but the latter excused himself on account of his ill health and love of retirement. Natalis indeed added, that Seneca said, upon Piso's safety his own welfare depended. But Seneca, when questioned, refused the charge.

Nero had long hated Seneca, and wanted only the shadow of a pretence to kill him. He sent the tribune Sylvanus to examine him, and report his answers. Sylvanus found Seneca at his country-house four miles from Rome. He owned every thing Natalis had advanced, but denied that ever he should have said his welfare depended upon the safety of any private man. However,

ever, Nero, determined to sacrifice him, sent a second message, acquainting Seneca that he must die.

Seneca heard his doom with great composure, and calmly called for his will. But that being denied him by the centurion charged with his execution, he turned to his friends, and told them, that, since he was not allowed to acknowledge their favours, he bequeathed to them that which was alone left them, the pattern of his life. Now were they all drowned in tears ! Seneca alone, unmoved, continued thus : To whom is unknown the bloody nature of Nero ! who, after murdering his mother, his wife, his relations, what remains but to add to theirs the slaughter of his tutor and instructor ? He got up and embraced his wife Paulina—an affecting scene ! Now was his firmness somewhat abated.

His wife seemed determined to die with him. Her veins were opened ; but the
tyrant

tyrant sent orders to stop the bleeding, and she yielded to the allurements of life ; but was ever after pale, and marked with a langour which time could not efface.

As for Seneca, he had his veins opened; but the blood flowed so slowly, that he was obliged to try poison ; and that too he resisted. All this while he continued dictating to his scribes. His fancy was fertile to the last. This death-bed production was published, and eagerly sought after, and read.

Mean time, the centurion's patience began to wear out. Neither the bleeding nor the poison sufficed to kill an old man, who for some years past observed an exact regimen in his eating and drinking ; living so poorly that he was almost reduced to skin and bone. He seldom drank any thing but water. His food was chiefly wild fruits from the woods. Such was his manner of life in the midst of plenty ; for he was one
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of the richest subjects in the whole empire :
And now his vast estate was seized by the
tyrant, who assigned a pension to the wi-
dow.

The centurion, quite wearied out with
the slowness of his death, caused him to be
conveyed to a stove, where he was soon
suffocated with the steam.

Such was the death of Seneca on the
twelfth day of April. His body was burnt
without any funeral solemnity, pursuant to
a will he had made when in the highest
favour with Nero.

Year of
Rome
814.

Fenius Rufus had hitherto shewn greater
severity as a judge than Nero himself. He
stumbled upon his ruin at last ; for whilst
he was urging Scevinus to a full confession,
even using terrible threats, Scevinus could
bear it no longer, but began to smile, and
calmly told Rufus, that no man was better
acquainted with the whole rise and progress
of

of the plot than himself. Rufus attempted to refute the charge, but, faltering in his speech, he betrayed manifest signs of guilt, which Nero observing, he caused immediately seize, and carry him to prison.

The tribune Flavius was accused about the same time. He did not like Rufus's attempt to refute the charge ; he gloried in it. Nero asking him upon what provocation he thus slighted his oath ? Because, said he, I abhorred thee—though there was not one more attached to thee, so long as you behaved like yourself—but I began to hate you, when you became the murderer of your mother, your wife, and kinsmen—a charioteer, a comedian, an incendiary. The whole conspiracy afforded nothing so mortifying as this just reproach. In his rage, he caused the tribune's head to be struck off immediately in an adjacent field. Flavius faced death with a manly intrepidity.

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The next example of firmness appeared in the centurion Sulpicius Asper, who, when asked by Nero, why he violated his oath? because, says Asper, there was no other remedy against thy abominable enormities. The other tribunes and centurions suffered death with equal fortitude. But Rufus, their commander, betrayed a meanness greatly beneath a man of his rank and profession.

Lucan, the poet, who was nephew to Seneca, died, not all at once, but by degrees—for having the choice of his own death, he opened his veins, and, at different intervals, stopped the bleeding, and conversed freely with his friends: He was even cheerful and entertaining. His attention rolled between hands to the making of verses, which did him no dishonour. He bled to death on the 30th day of April, aged only 26 years. His mother Attilia escaped unhurt; as did likewise Natalis, who was pardoned for his early confession.

Nero wished to have found the Consul Vestinus in the plot. He had been long in high favour with the Emperor ; but at this time no man was more hated by him. Vestinus, abusing the freedom allowed him, was in use to insult Nero with bitter sarcasms, which were the more severe as they were founded in truth. Nero hoped that some of the conspirators would have named him ; but they, knowing the man's temper, which was hot and untractable, never thought of imparting the plot to him.

However, since the Emperor could not exert his vengeance under the title of Judge, he assumed that of Tyrant, and sent a party of five hundred men to invest the consul's house, whilst he sat at supper with a large company of his friends. The consul had been that very day discharging the functions of his high office, and now making merry with his company, the soldiers entered,

entered, and bid him come forth and speak with their commander Gerelanus.

Vestinus rose from table that moment—shut himself up in his chamber with his physician—had his veins cut—and, whilst yet in full vigour of body and mind, was conveyed into a hot bath, and suffocated with the steam; never once all the while uttering a single word that betrayed the smallest concern, either about himself or any one of his family.

Milichus, the informer of the plot, was amply rewarded, and honoured with a Greek name, signifying Protector.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXXI.

THE time drawing near for disputing the prize in the Quinquennial games, the Senate, to prevent Nero from appearing there as a competitor, offered him beforehand the prize of music, and also the crown of eloquence. But, sick of their flattery, he plainly told them that he had no occasion for their partiality; that he meant publicly to obtain the prize and recompense of his skill and address, by the just determination of the judges.

He appeared accordingly in the great theatre amongst the common harpers and minstrels, contended with them for the prize with such eagerness and anxiety, that he never ventured to sit down, however fatigued,

tigued, nor to spit, nor to wipe the sweat from his face, it being contrary to the established laws of the harp. In the end, adoring the multitude with his knee bent, and his hands lifted up like a common player, he waited with awe and trembling the determination of the judges. On their part, not to have raised loud shouts in token of praise, would have been a crime against the state, and punished with death.

The applause of the multitude gave Nero such pleasure that he appeared thenceforth almost every day upon the stage. He invited the senators, knights, the whole rabble at Rome to attend him; and, when once met, none durst depart, upon any pretence whatever, till he gave over playing.

Many, by the confinement, were seized with mortal distempers. Sometimes women fell in labour, and were delivered in the theatre. Spies were posted to see that
none

none went out. They were charged to watch faces, and mark down the signs of pleasure or discontent. Vespasian, who was afterwards Emperor, for only dosing a little while Nero was singing, was struck in the face by a common soldier. He was even for this very fault impeached as a criminal by Phoebus, and would have been sentenced to die, had not his friends at court interposed, and procured for him the command in Judea, which was then considered as a kind of banishment.

Nero valued himself as much upon his dexterity in chariot-driving as upon his fine voice. One day upon his return home, after driving a good while in the circus, his wife Poppaea called him an aukward driver. In return, he gave her a kick with his foot in the belly, though then big with child, which killed her on the spot.

He spared no cost upon her funeral. More perfumes were burnt on the occasion
than

than Arabia Felix produced in one year : Nor had she been less expensive when living. She kept constantly five hundred asses, and bathed daily in their milk for the preservation of her beauty only.

The Emperor wanted next to marry Antonia, his sister, by adoption : But she, declining the match, he caused murder her. Immediately after, he married Statilia Messalina, the widow of the late Consul Vestinus ; the same he surprised at table.

Nero caused the servile Senate pass sentence of death upon one of their most illustrious members. This was Thrasea Pœtus, whose only crime was his incorruptible integrity. It was he that left the house when Nero's letter upon the death of his mother was read. This good man, after a long discourse with his friends upon the immortality of the soul, died with that fortitude which had distinguished his whole life.

C H A P.

C H A P. XXXII.

NERO, fired with an ardent desire to distinguish himself at the Olympic games, embarked for Greece with no other view than to be there reputed the best harper, singer, actor, and charioteer, in the whole empire. At this time the Greeks excelled most nations in the art of flattery, and well knew how to improve the Emperor's weakness to their advantage. The several cities sent their ambassadors to meet and present him with the crowns designed for such as excelled in harp-playing, adjudging that honour to Nero only ; which so pleased the chanting Prince, that he admitted the ambassadors to his table, and gave them and their cities many favours and rich presents.

The public money lavished in this prodigal manner made Nero many enemies. Happy, however, had this been the worst of his conduct. In the midst of his harping, he put many illustrious persons to death,—men renowned for their virtues and noble achievements, for these he dreaded most. He sent a most flattering letter to Corbulo, who had lately conquered Armenia, and was esteemed the best man, the greatest general, and the fittest for the supreme command of any man then living. In this letter, he stiled Corbulo his father, his benefactor, his only refuge, and invited him to cross over from Asia into Greece, pretending an eager desire to see one to whom he was so highly indebted.

Corbulo did not suspect, as he ought, the professions of a man of Nero's character, so immediately left his army, and embarked for Greece. The moment Nero heard of his arrival at Cenchreae, the port of Corinth, on the side of the Ægean sea, he sent

a party to assassinate him. The instant Corbulo saw their design, he plunged his sword into his breast, saying, he well deserved to die for leaving his brave and faithful army to wait on such a monster.

Many such murders might be mentioned; but this may serve to give an idea of Nero's wicked reign. Nor was that of Helius, whom he left at Rome with absolute power, less tragical there. This Helius butchered every man of great fortune, and put the money in his pocket. His cruelty excited such seditions at Rome, that he sent frequent expresses to hasten Nero's return, owning himself unable to hold the reins of government any longer.

No wonder that the generals and governors of provinces began to open their eyes, and see their extreme danger under Nero; a tyrant who, in the person of Corbulo, had cut down the pride of Rome.

Julius

Julius Vindex, governour of Celtic Gaul, was the first to declare against his harping Sovereign. The Gauls favoured his design, and, flocking to him from all parts, he soon found himself at the head of one hundred thousand men.

Galba, the governour of Spain, remained some time doubtful what course to take ; but the Spaniards, who detested the very name of Nero, soon determined him to revolt. Otho, who still governed Lusitania, immediately declared for Galba ; sent him all his gold and silver plate to be turned into money ; sent him even his domestics, who, having been long at court, were better qualified than Galba's to serve an Emperor.

Some time before the rebellion broke out, Nero was nearly lost in a storm crossing the Adriatick Sea. Upon his safe arrival on shore, he caused several of his attendants to be put to death, for having betrayed

trayed joy whilst he was in danger of perishing at sea, little thinking that he was preserved to undergo a most painful sadness, and a much harder death at land.

Whilst Vindex, Galba, and Otho, were concerting their measures for a revolution, Virginius, who commanded the legions in Upper Germany, was warmly pressed by his soldiers to take the empire at their hands. But he, well apprised of what bad consequence it would be to vest in the army the power of naming the Emperor, publicly declared that he would support the Senate and people of Rome in their just right of disposing of the empire. He even marched his army to suppress the rebellion raised by Vindex; and, when the two armies drew near each other, the leaders holding an interview, they fell to blows without orders; nor could they be stopped in their madness till twenty thousand Gauls were killed on the spot.

After

After this encounter, which happened at the city of Besancon, the victorious troops urged Virginius more than ever to accept of the empire, saluting him, at every word, Caesar, Emperor, Augustus, &c. But he still resolutely told them, that the Senate alone should name their Emperor. This conduct gained him greater honour than if he had conquered kingdoms. As for Vindex, he was so disheartened at the slaughter of so many of his men, that he killed himself.

The first news of the revolt reached Nero at Naples on the nineteenth day of March, a day remarkable for the tragical end of his mother a few years before. Still, however, he continued to sing, play, and act upon the stage as usual, now and then insinuating that he would make the Gauls pay dear for disturbing his pleasures. But the alarm increasing, and messenger after messenger arriving at court with dismal tidings,

dings, he left Naples in a great fright, and repaired to Rome.

Here he called together, in great haste, some of the chief men of the senatorial and equestrian order; but, instead of taking their advice, or consulting with them on this critical emergency, he only asked their opinion of certain musical instruments he had lately invented, so contrived as to play by water.

One night as he was sitting down to supper, he received the news of Galba's defection, which threw him into such a rage, that he overturned the table, tore his garments, broke in pieces some cups of great value, and, dashing his head against the wall, he cried out, he was undone.

At this time, a famine began to be felt in the city; and, a ship arriving from Egypt laden, not with corn as was expected, but with sand for the gladiators and wrestlers,

lers, the people, in their first transports, overturned the Emperor's statues, tore his images, and plundered the houses of his favourites.

Nero, quite distracted, called for a dose of poison, prepared by the famous Locusta, and inclosed in a gold box, to be ready when he should need it.

In the mean time, he sent orders to Ostia to put his fleet in readiness for conveying him to Egypt, not doubting but that Galba would give him the government of that ancient kingdom. But his officers and freed-men refusing to attend him in his flight, he resolved to put himself in deep mourning, and, with the utmost humility and dejection, implore the people's forgiveness for his past conduct. To this purpose an oration was found amongst his papers after his death. It seems he was afraid to deliver it, justly dreading, that the outrageous multitude would tear him in pieces before

before he could reach the rostra. In this dilemma he put off taking any resolution till next day.

Hitherto, Tigellinus and Nymphidius, the two captains of his guards, had served him faithfully: But now, in his distress, they forsook him, fearing to be involved in his ruin. Nymphidius thought of securing the empire to himself. However, he dissembled for the present; and, pretending to join the party of Galba, assured the guards that Nero was fled, and promised them, in Galba's name, such sums of money as very much flattered their hopes. This promise secured for the present the empire to Galba; occasioned afterwards the loss of it; in effect, it brought about the ruin of Nymphidius, Galba, and the very guards themselves.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXXIII.

WE left Nero in a state of suspense, resolved only to pass another night before he came to a final resolution. What an empty creature did he appear, when rising at midnight in the greatest anxiety, he looked out, and found that his guards were gone! He sent in great haste for some of his freedmen and favourites. But not one of them obeyed the summons. He therefore went in person to their several houses. But the doors were every where shut against him, and no body would appear to answer him. He hurried back to his chamber, and found it rifled of every thing worth lifting. He regretted most the loss of the gold-box which contained the poison, to which, in this desperate state, he meant to have had recourse.

As a last effort to get rid of himself, he sent for a gladiator to stab him : But none could be found to perform the sad office—which made Nero cry out, ‘ What ! neither friends nor enemies ! ’ He flew next towards the Tiber to drown himself ; but, suddenly changing his mind, he makes a full stop, and considers what is to be done.

Now it was that a deep sense of guilt preyed upon his spirits. Reader ! figure to yourself a forlorn Prince, abandoned by his guards, strolling through the streets of Rome before the rising of the Sun, in a fine summer morning.—Musing in the deepest despair, he chanced to cast his eyes upon Phaon, one of his freedmen, who came up, and advised him to betake himself to some private corner, where he might recollect himself, and resume his courage, which seemed entirely lost.

Phaon offered him his country-house, which stood four miles from the city, between

tween the Salarian and Numentan roads. Nero instantly accepted the invitation, and set out, meanly clad, and worse mounted, hiding his face with a handkerchief, for fear of being discovered. He was attended by four persons, of whom Sporus was one.

As he passed by the camp of the praetorian guards, he heard the soldiers cursing him, and wishing success to Galba. A person on the road asked him, What news of Nero? His horse starting at a carcase that lay in the way, his face was uncovered, and he was known by a soldier, who addressed him by name—at which he was so terrified, that, at the first turning, he and his attendants quit their horses, and, taking up a narrow path, crept with much pain thro' bushes and briars, till they reached the wall that inclosed Phaon's grounds.

Here they made a halt till Phaon considered how he might introduce the Emperor with secrecy into his house. Whilst they

they were cutting a hole into the wall to open a passage, poor Nero was glad to quench his thirst with some stinking water in a ditch—was employed too in picking out the thorns that had stuck in his flesh.

He got at last to Phaon's house, where he spent a few hours in such distress of mind as is almost without example. It was now that he wished he had observed the wise lessons, and wholesome councils, of Seneca—saw too late the folly of his conduct—seemed sensible of his approaching fate—and often declared that Tigellinus, who betrayed him, and some others, his greatest favourites, were in fact his mortal enemies, and hurried him on to those bloody and barbarous measures which will for ever make his name execrable.

Mean time, his attendants began to urge him to a voluntary death, to avoid the ignominy of a public execution, which they foresaw would be soon. Nero, unable to
bear

learn the idea of a public execution, gave orders to dig his grave, and provide wood and water for the washing and burning of his body—bemoaning his sad destiny, and often repeating, with tears, 'What an artist will the world lose!'

This day, the eleventh of June, and last of Nero's life, the Roman Senate enjoyed a freedom of speech to which they had been long unaccustomed. They assembled early in the morning; and, after causing Galba to be proclaimed Emperor, they declared Nero an enemy to the state, and sentenced him to be punished *More Majorum*.

Year of
Rome
817.

One of Phaon's friends sent immediate notice to Nero of the transactions of the Senate. The moment the messenger arrived, Nero snatched the letter out of his hand, and, after reading it, asked Phaon, What was meant by *More Majorum*? Phaon told him, that, pursuant to the sentence of the Senate, he was to be stripped naked,

naked, his head fastened in a pillory, and he in that posture whipt to death.

At these words a cold sweat came over the unhappy Prince! every joint of him trembled. Seizing a dagger, he seemed just ready to prevent the ignominy of the sentence. His courage failed him—he begged, with many tears, that some of his attendants would animate him by their example; but none of them were so tired of life. Whilst he continued to betray the greatest dejection and meanness imaginable, there was all of a sudden heard a great noise of horses galloping up the avenue to the house. These were coming express for Nero, by order of the Senate.

Now, there was not a moment to lose: But still Nero failed—his exertions went no farther than simply to aim the dagger—sometimes at his heart—sometimes at his throat. At last he begged, with a flood of tears, the helping hand of his secretary Epaphroditus,

paphroditus, who killed him at one thrust, and paid dear for it, being afterwards put to death by the Emperor Domitian, for having stained his hands in the imperial blood.

GALBA.

G A L B A.

C H A P. XXXIV.

VICELLIUS, whom Galba had sent to Rome to watch the motions of the Senate, no sooner heard by report that Nero had killed himself, than he ran to Phaon's country-house, to make sure of the truth. Here he beheld the lifeless carcase extended on the floor. Then setting out quickly for the new Emperor's head-quarters at Clunia in Spain, he in seven days reached the place.

He found Galba in his chamber, trying to slumber a little, his mind racked with anxiety. Vicellius revived him for the present.

present. It was very acceptable intelligence to Galba, to hear that he was declared Emperor by the Senate—that the praetorian guards had declared for him—and that Nero was out of the way.

Crouds of people thronged to Clunia, to congratulate the new Emperor, who, upon receiving the decrees of the Senate, set out for Rome, attended by his Spanish guard. He was accompanied by Otho, proprætor of Lusitania, and by his two favourites, Cornelius Laco, and Titus Vinius, whom he named to be joint commanders of the praetorian guards. He advanced but slowly, on account of his age, being carried the whole way in a litter.

Galba had ever dreaded Virginius as his most dangerous rival ; but, when he came to hear of his noble behaviour in resisting the pressing solicitations of the whole army, he was so taken with it, that he sent for him to keep him near his person, and

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bestow

bestow upon him such honours as his conduct well deserved.

Virginus, upon the first summons, set out to meet the Emperor, leaving the command of his army to Flaccus, who was appointed in his room. Galba received him without the least mark of respect. This coldness was owing to the favourite Titus Vinius, who, having an absolute ascendant over the Emperor, and dreading the great merit of Virginus, had been endeavouring to blacken his reputation, and make him odious.

Every body knows that the best of men may be made very ridiculous by the tongues of envy and malice. In the end, Titus Vinius, without intending it, proved a great friend to Virginus—for, by keeping him out of Galba's court, and reducing him to a private life, he freed him from those dangers to which we shall see the reigning

reigning ministers exposed, and gave the great Virginius an opportunity of spending his days, in ease and plenty, to a very advanced age.

C H A P.

C H A P. XXXV.

MEAN time, Nymphidius usurped all power at Rome, and even compelled his colleague, Tigellinus, to lay down his commission, by which he became sole commander of the guards. He was of opinion that Galba, by reason of his age and infirmities, would never reach Rome; and, contrary to the advice of his intimate friend, Clodius Celsus, a native of Antioch, he resolved all at once to grasp the empire.

He had already dealt his money amongst the praetorian guards with a liberal hand; made magnificent entertainments, inviting to them such as had been consuls, or had commanded armies; distributed large sums amongst the people, whom he had likewise entertained with shows.

Having

Having by these means acquired an absolute authority in the city, he determined to put off the important affair no longer. He was the more eager to declare himself, having got advice that Galba was arrived at the borders of Italy, and had named Laco and Vinius to command the guards, by which he would very soon be stripped of the only post wherein he could act his part to advantage.

He therefore imparted his design to his officers, and they to the soldiers. It was concerted that Nymphidius should that very night be conveyed into the camp, and there proclaimed Emperor.

It happened, however, that Antonius Honoratus, one of the tribunes, touched with remorse, called his men together in the evening, and in a speech finely wrought up for his purpose, advised them to remain steady to Galba. The tribune was listened to

to with attention, and Galba once more, with loud shouts, proclaimed Emperor.

Nymphidius hearing a confused noise, and not knowing what to make of it, hastened to the camp, attended by a great number of lights, holding in his hand a speech composed by Varo, which he intended to pronounce before his men. But how great was his surprise at finding the gates shut, and the soldiers in arms upon the ramparts ! He asked them, by whose orders had they taken up arms ? They answered with one voice, that they were determined to acknowledge Galba. Nymphidius pretending to concur with them, applauded their fidelity ; and, not despairing as yet of success, ordered them to open the gates to their general.

They obeyed ; but Nymphidius, upon entering the camp, was saluted with a dart, which Septimius, who marched before him, received upon his shield. Taking to flight,
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he was pursued, overtaken, and killed by his own soldiers, who dragged him through the camp, and next morning exposed his corpse to public view, in an inclosure made for that purpose.

Galba being informed of the treason, and at the same time of the death of the traitor, gave orders to execute all those, without exception, who were concerned in the treachery ;—a rigour which gave no favourable idea of the new Emperor.

C H A P.

C H A P. XXXVI.

GALBA, upon his arrival at the Milvian bridge, about twenty-five furlongs distant from Rome, was met by a large body of marines, who by Nero had been formed into a legion, and were now come to demand of Galba a confirmation of their establishment. But the Emperor, either rejecting their petition, or putting off the affair to another time, they grew mutinous, blocked up the passage, and boldly demanded an eagle, and other legionary ensigns. Galba, enraged at their boldness, caused his cavalry to break in amongst the disarmed multitude, of whom near seven thousand were killed on the spot; and those taken prisoners were decimated.

The

The Emperor being come to his metropolis, the people thronged about him, and with one voice demanded the execution of Nero's wicked ministers. Their request was granted only with respect to such as had not money to purchase the favour of Vinius, whose protection was gained with large sums by Tigellinus, Halotus, and some others, who by this method saved themselves till the next reign, which was not very distant.

The public money being quite exhausted by Nero's prodigality, Galba caused those who had received his excessive donations to restore nine-tenths of them. On this occasion, the judges at the Olympic games, the priestesses of Apollo, certain players upon instruments, some actors, charioteers, &c. were rigorously called to account.

The praetorian guards were now in great hopes of receiving the large donative promised to them by Nymphidius in Galba's
E e
name.

name. But, when the Emperor told them that he chose his soldiers, and did not buy them, their attachment to him began to cool. Many of them were broke and dismissed, because of their engagements in the late conspiracy; as was likewise a German cohort, that had always been attached to the reigning Prince.

Galba, from a sense of his age and infirmities, was urged, by an uncommon zeal for the welfare of his people, to adopt a successor;—not out of his own family and kindred, but, if possible, he would search the whole empire till he hit upon a person fit to govern it.

He cast his eyes upon Piso Licinianus, a young Roman of the first quality, whose life had hitherto been unspotted, and of whom the person adopting entertained the highest hopes.

Piso

Piso was at this time in the thirty-first year of his age ; and, when sent for, and adopted by Galba as his successor, first, in presence of the army, and afterwards of the Senate, betrayed no marks of joy. He showed a becoming gratitude for the honour done him ; and, in his whole deportment, appeared with such modesty and command of himself, as quite astonished all who beheld him.

This adoption very much offended Otho, who had not only been the first to second Galba's revolt against Nero, but even sent him all his plate,—his very domestics,—and all this to give Galba the appearance of a Prince before he left Spain. Otho was in hopes, that, as Galba had no children, he would be the successor himself. The late transaction very much disconcerted him. He showed his displeasure by secretly improving the discontents amongst the soldiery, by whom he was extremely beloved.

For

For some days he burned inwardly at the adoption of Piso, without daring to speak his mind. However, his freedmen had sufficient discernment to guess at his thoughts. They saw in his countenance what he harboured in his breast, and pushed him on to the sovereignty, by telling him how sweet a thing it was. His freedman Onamastus undertook the treasonable task, and effected it by means of some soldiers of the life-guard, men of great address, and whose general intimacy in the camp fitted them for the business.

Matters being ripe, the 15th day of January was fixed upon to proclaim Otho Emperor. Upon the morning of that day, Otho went, as usual, to wait upon the Emperor, who received him with a kiss; for in this manner he received such as he considered his friends. Otho was immediately carried away to be present at a private sacrifice, which the Emperor was about to offer in the temple of Apollo.

Umbricius,

Umbricius, the sooth-sayer, no sooner viewed the entrails of the victim, than he warned Galba of treasonable plots just impending, at which Otho could hardly conceal his confusion; but his freedman Onamastus entering at that instant, told him, that the surveyors and builders waited his coming. This was the signal agreed on. Otho took his leave directly; feigning to the Emperor, and those who asked the cause of his departure, that he was going to purchase some old houses.

Otho went straight to the gilt pillar by the temple of Saturn, where the several highways meet, and was there proclaimed Emperor by a small party of about twenty soldiers only; Otho, all the while in a great panic, considering himself as lost with such a handful of men. But the soldiers, seating him in a chair, carried him directly to the camp. They were joined in the way by detached parties, lurking, at proper distances, on each side of the street, which

which soon made their appearance formidable.

Upon their arrival at the camp, Julius Martialis, the tribune, who that day commanded the main-guard, suffered them to enter; being either privy to the conspiracy, or because he saw it in vain to resist the torrent. In a moment, the whole camp resounded with the name of Otho, whom they instantly proclaimed Emperor, Caesar, &c.

Mean time, Galba was still employed with the sooth-sayer, inspecting the entrails of the victim, when, suddenly, a messenger arrived with the news of Otho's hasty advancement by the soldiery. Galba was in an instant beset with pretended friends, and busy bodies, each relating the circumstances of the insurrection his own way, which occasioned his being kept for some time in suspense between different councils.

Vinius

Vinius advised him to stick to the palace, arm his slaves, fortify the avenues, and by no means expose his person to the fury of madmen. But the rest of his council pointed out the necessity of present measures, and of his appearing abroad at the head of his adherents.

Whilst they were yet deliberating, news came that Otho was killed. Julius Atticus holding out his sword all over bloody declared that he had done the deed with his own hand. Persons of all ranks crouded to the palace to congratulate the old Emperor upon the death of the traitor.

None of them, by the bye, knew the fact; and yet they all affirmed it. The truth was, the report had been raised by Otho's party, with a view to make Galba less careful of his personal security.

Galba came at last to this resolution; he put on his breast plate, and abroad he
goes

goes in person, to recal his soldiers to their duty. Finding himself unable to sustain the pressing croud, he ordered his chair.

In the camp, the common armoury was thrown open,—whence arms were instantly snatched at random, without regard to the custom of war, or the different orders of men. Thus armed, they rushed impetuously into the city, and came up with Galba as he was entering the Forum.

At that moment the Emperor was abandoned by all,—even those who carried him threw him down to the mercy of his enemies, who after cutting off his head, disfigured with numberless wounds his lifeless body.

Their fury fell next upon his prime minister Vinus, whom they killed and mangled in the same manner.

Otho

Otho hearing that Piso had taken refuge in the temple of Vesta, sent thither a party, who dragging him forth, killed him near the gates of the temple.

The bleeding heads of Galba, and his adopted successor, were stuck upon high poles, and carried along amidst the banners of the military bands, close by the eagle of a legion.

Galba had reigned from the death of Nero seven months and as many days. He was great-grandson to Mummia Achaica, the daughter of Mummius who destroyed Corinth. Before he came to the empire, his wealth was immense,—which made him live in great anxiety under the tyrants his predecessors. It was then that he never wanted just by him a chariot, and some swift horses, with a large bag of money, whereby, if possible, he might escape their avarice and cruelty. He was killed in the seventy-third year of his age.

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His ministers, who all fell the same day with himself, were justly charged with extortion and partiality,—vices not peculiar to Galba himself, whose great weakness was, his trusting every thing to unworthy favourites; and their chief aim was, to make the most of a short reign, which, however, terminated with their own destruction,

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O T H O.

C H A P. XXXVII.

OTHO was immediately received as Emperor by the Senate and people of Rome. But a fabric suddenly reared is commonly of short duration.

Vitellius, who had been advanced by Galba to the command of the legions in lower Germany, was so much urged by his soldiers, and the people of different nations, to accept of the empire, that he could not, like the great Virginus, resist the bait.

Galba

Galba was so jealous of the Germans, from their behaviour to Virginius, that he sent them Vitellius to command them, purely because he was a mere nothing in the art-military. He had address enough, however, to gain the affections of the Germans and Gauls, and was busy concerting his measures at the time of Otho's advancement; of which extraordinary event he was yet ignorant.

Vitellius put the flower of his army under two generals, Valens and Caecina, who were ordered to cross the Alps by different ways. The army of Valens consisted of forty thousand men,—that of Caecina thirty thousand. The former marched over mount Cenis, and the latter took the way of the great St Bernard.

Vitellius followed with a strong body of Germans, but took no charge of any thing but his eating and drinking. He was commonly drunk before the middle of the day,

day,—and so great a glutton, that all the revenue of the empire was little enough to supply the exorbitant expences of his table. Though wholly unequal to the enterprize now begun in his name, the zeal of his officers and soldiers was such, that they bore him up in spite of himself.

Otho, hearing of the storm that was raised against his predecessor, and now levelled against himself, wrote frequent letters to Vitellius to prevent it; not only offering him great sums of money to support his table, but even promised to take him for his partner, and marry his daughter.

Vitellius having in his turn tempted Otho with the like offers, they proceeded next to upbraid each other with their debaucheries and profligate lives, in which they both wrote the truth.

C H A P.

C H A P. XXXVIII.

AT this time the Roman citizens were greatly agitated with the apprehensions of a civil war. They had not yet forgot the times of Pompey and Caesar, of Antony and Augustus. Their fears were much increased by prodigies,—besides a great many unnatural births; in Hetruria an ox spoke. The Tiber, rising far above its usual bed, broke down bridges, and drowned a great many people in their shops and houses.

Otho, finding that war was unavoidable, made up an army as quickly as possible to oppose the progress of Valens and Caecina, who were already passed the Alps.

It

It was at the village of Bedriacum, situated between Cremona, and Verona, that Otho held a council of war with his officers. Of these Suetonius Paulinus, one of the greatest generals then living, was the chief. Next to him in reputation was Marius Celsus, one of the late Emperor's friends, whom Otho had saved by stratagem from the fury of his outrageous soldiers,—for, when they were just going to tear him in pieces, Otho, feigning still greater rage, begged they would only clap him in irons, and reserve him for another day. By this artifice he saved an officer of great merit.

It was the opinion of these two commanders, that hurry and present action would serve the enemy most, since they were in want of necessaries, — whereas Otho's army was not only well provided, but in hopes of being soon joined by the legions from Dalmatia, Panonia, and Macedonia. On this occasion, Otho unhappily gave

gave way to the advice of his brother Titianus, and one Proculus, an upstart of his own making, who were intent upon engaging the enemy immediately.

It was likewise deliberated upon, whether the Emperor should expose his person in the field of battle, or retire to a place of safety. Here Proculus carried the point again,—for, at his motion, Otho very readily went to Brixellum, there to wait at a distance the event of a battle.

The Emperor did himself great prejudice, not only by detaching from his army some of his best troops to guard his person, but by vesting Titianus, and Proculus with the chief command, whilst the only generals of known abilities and tried bravery, Paulinus and Celsus, were set aside as dotards who knew nothing at all of the matter.

Proculus

Proculus marched towards the enemy, and after a day's march, in which the army was greatly fatigued and distressed for want of water, was still next morning for making an attack, although the enemy was encamped at the distance of sixteen miles, just by the confluence of the rivers Adda and Po.

Paulinus remonstrated warmly against thus exposing the army, whilst fatigued with marching. The affair was yet under debate, when a Numidian sent by Otho on a swift horse, with letters for the generals, arrived. In these letters, Otho upbraids them with want of courage, and orders them to engage the enemy immediately. After this, Paulinus and Celsus were entirely silent. So the army marched on to their destruction.

The battle was bloody and obstinate. The united forces of Valens and Caecina obtained a complete victory. The number

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of slain amounted to forty thousand men on both sides. The remains of Otho's forces flew in great confusion towards Bedriacum.

The next day, Titianus and his council agreeing to a surrender, the gates of their camp were thrown open. Then the conquerors and the vanquished mixing together, nothing was to be seen but floods of tears, each bewailing the loss of his father, his brother, his uncle, &c. &c. They dressed, with great tenderness, each other's wounds, bitterly detesting all the while the sad fate of civil wars.

A fugitive running up to the Emperor with the sad news, was accused of falsehood and cowardice ; which so exasperated him, that he fell upon his sword at Otho's feet, who, admiring his boldness, cried out, No more such brave men shall, on my account, be exposed to danger.

The

The Emperor's condition was still far from being desperate. He had with him many brave men warmly attached to his service. The legions from Maesia, Dalmatia, and Panonia, were already near at hand. Those, too, ordered from Syria and Egypt were on the way. But nothing could divert Otho from a fixed resolution of sacrificing his life to the public tranquillity.

Having settled his affairs, he went to bed as usual; and, when all was quiet, he takes his sword and kills himself with a thrust in his left side.

His death was known in a moment to his soldiers, who began to accuse themselves for not watching him more carefully, in order to save a life in this manner extinguished to preserve their's.

In his last will, strict orders were given to perform his funeral obsequies as quickly

as

as possible. This was to prevent his head being stuck off, and fixed on a pole like that of Galba, which he very much dreaded from the beginning of the war. The praetorian cohorts bore his corpse, magnificently attired, often kissing his wound, and even paying him divine honours. Fire being put to the funeral pile, some of them fell a killing themselves, and one another, not caring to outlive their Prince.

Such was the death of Otho, in the thirty-seventh year of his age, having reigned only three months and five days. By his will, he recommended his ashes to Nero's widow, Messalina, whom he intended to have married, had the war ended favourably.

It was in this short reign that Tigellinus, that bloody minister of Nero's cruelty, who had been protected, under Galba, by the power of Vinius, was now sacrificed to the public resentment. He was at the baths of
Sinuessæ,

Sinuesa, amidst an herd of harlots, when his death-warrant reached him. Here it was, that, after many passionate embraces, and unmanly fears, he at last cut his throat with a razor, to prevent the executioner.

VITEL-

VITELLIUS.

C H A P. XXXIX.

THE new Emperor was met at Lyons by the generals of both parties, the conquerors and the conquered.

Many wealthy magistrates and others were quite beggared by the magnificent feasts they gave to Vitellius, it being the only way to gain his favour. Nay, without this mark of their liberality, his soldiers were suffered to fall upon them and plunder them.

The roads were now crouded with carriers fetching provisions for the Emperor's table;

table ; and all men of real worth saw, with deep concern, the empire devolving upon a glutton.

Vitellius sent several edicts to be published at Rome before his arrival. One of them ordered all astrologers to leave Italy before the calends of October.

The astrologers, in their turn, posted up libels, commanding Vitellius to depart this life by a fixed day, which so provoked him, that he caused as many of that profession as could be found to be put to death.

Nor did he spare Dolabella. His case had been tried before Flavius Sabinus, governor of Rome ; but the crime of treason was not proved. His true crime was, his having married Petronia, the Emperor's divorced wife ; and the Emperor, finding the legal way ineffectual, had recourse to his absolute power. He invited Dolabella, upon

upon his acquittal, to come and meet him by the Terni road, where he employed assassins to despatch him; which they did by cutting his throat, when he thought of no such attempt.

Vitellius drawing near Rome, the Senators and Roman knights came out to meet him. He was mounted on a stately courser, and was going to enter the city in his warlike dress, had not one of his friends advised him to change it for the senatorial robe.

Having assembled the Senate, he made a public speech, in which he promised great advantages from his administration;—spoke mighty things of himself, and not a little of his extreme temperance. He caused the praetorian guards to be wholly discharged; and, in their place, embodied twenty cohorts, consisting of one thousand men each, mostly Germans, to the command of which he named J. Priscus and P. Sabinus.

Sabinus. The same honours were decreed to him by the Senate, as had been enjoyed by his predecessors.

The new Emperor found he could not bear the fatigue of government. He left every transaction, civil and military, to his ministers, of whom Valens and Caecina held the first rank. One Asiaticus, who had been formerly his pathic, shared in the administration ; and, in the space of four months, acquired wealth beyond the richest men in the empire.

Vitellius eat commonly four, and sometimes five meals a day, delighting chiefly in dishes that were costly ; such as the livers of the fish called scari, the brains of pheasants and peacocks, the tongues of foreign birds, the guts of lampreys brought from the Carpathian Sea, &c. &c.

He did not always feast at home: He
often invited himself to the houses of the
H h citizens,

citizens, who spared no pains or expence to please his palate. His belly was not his only extravagance : He almost daily exhibited shews in the circus; combats in the theatre and amphitheatre ; and sometimes, to gain the applause of the rabble, scattered his money by handfuls.

Such were the scenes acting at Rome, whilst the generals and governours of the East were concerting a fresh civil war, without knowing well who was their Emperor, after such sudden revolutions as happened of late,

C H A P.

C H A P. XL.

AT this time Vespasian commanded in Judea; Mucianus was governour of Syria; Tiberius Alexander ruled in Egypt. These, with the rest of the officers and soldiery, were deeply affected with the frequent usurpations in Italy, and saw, with envy, that the legions in Europe were disposing of the empire at their pleasure, whilst they remained the slaves of every Emperor.

They fixed upon Vespasian; but he, like another Virginius, resisted for some time their offers of empire. His knowledge of the world presented to him the dangers to himself and his family from such a step. His son Titus, and some general officers,
per-

persuaded him at last to stand for the empire.

Alexander caused him to be proclaimed at Alexandria the first day of July, which became the anniversary of his accession. The legions in Syria proclaimed him at Antioch. The Illyrian army, with the legions quartered in Cappadocia and Pontus, likewise declared for him.

Mucianus and Vespasian had lived lately in the deepest discord, and might have long continued so, had not their own and the public good demanded their union, which was in a great measure effected by the mediation of Titus, whose amiable disposition gained him a multitude of hearts, and contributed not a little to his father's advancement.

C H A P.

C H A P. XLI.

MUCIANUS was appointed generalissimo in the war against Vitellius. But Antonius Primus, who commanded in Illyrium, in a council held at Pettaw on the Drave, argued boldly that nothing would conduce more to the success of the war than despatch, and even proposed entering Italy at once, without waiting for the armies of the East. He represented that the German soldiers under Vitellius were indeed once formidable; but, now softened in the delights of the city, they were no longer the same men. His harrangue had a force that proved irresistible. The most cautious were dragged along with the torrent, so ardently did the soldiery second their general's views.

Primus

Primus wished for nothing so much as the honour of finishing the war. He marched directly into Italy by the way of Aquileia, from whence he went and took possession of Verona, which he proposed to make the seat of war ; it being seated amidst spacious plains, well fitted for the cavalry, wherein lay his main strength.

Here it was that he received letters from Vespasian and Mucianus, ordering him to stop at Aquileia, there to wait the arrival of the forces of the East, with Mucianus at their head, who was to take the charge of the war. But Primus, thinking himself too far advanced to recede, determined to abide by his former resolution, and pursue the war with vigour before a rival came to share in its glory.

This haste in Primus, though crowned with success, was highly resented by Mucianus, who gave him no thanks for taking Rome by storm, and seating Vespasian on
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the ruins of Vitellius ; a work from which he had vainly promised himself a great harvest of laurels, and could not bear to hear that Primus had gathered them all up even before he had well concerted his plan of operations.

Vitellius, struck with terror at the storm raised by Primus, immediately despatched Caecina with an army to oppose him. This general having got to a proper distance from Rome, began to discover an inclination to betray his trust. He had for some time past looked upon Valens as a dangerous rival, and wished rather to ruin his Sovereign than not be the highest in his esteem. His first step was to open a treacherous correspondence with the enemy, which greatly elevated the hopes of Primus. Having succeeded in corrupting the fleet riding at Ravenna, he called together his troops, to whom he represented the ill state of the Emperor's affairs, and advised them

them to betake themselves in time to the prevailing party.

The foldiers heard him with indignation, and having feized and clapped him in irons, chose for their generals Fabius Fabullus, commander of a legion, and Cassius Longus praefect of the camp.

Primus rightly judged that the present moment was not to be lost. He left Verona, and in two days came up with a party of the enemy near Cremona, whom, after an obstinate conflict, he put to flight. Being joined by the rear of his army, which came up just after the engagement, over great heaps of slain, they ardently besought him to lead them on against the town, tho' already dark, hoping great things from the plunder, Cremona being then stored with the wealth and produce of the country on occasion of a public fair.

How-

However, Primus thought fit to restrain their ardour, not thinking it very safe to risk an immediate attack with men already so much fatigued. But his intention to give the soldiers a night's repose was broke by the forwardness of the enemy themselves: He was informed by a stragler from the town that the whole army of the enemy was advancing against him in battle array.

A bloody battle began about nine at night, and lasted till the morning, in which the Emperor lost thirty thousand men killed on the spot. The rest flew to Cremona in despair.

The moon that night was very bright, and shone directly upon the faces of the vanquished. A most horrible scene was seen about midnight—a son killing his father! The father had time before he expired to make himself known to his son, just as he was going to rifle his pockets.

In a moment, the son, overwhelmed with grief, embraced his dying father ! charged, with a mournful voice, the wild ambition of the great with the crime of parricide ! sat by his father till he breathed his last ; then digging a grave, the tears streaming from his eyes, he performed the last duties to his unfortunate parent with a sad and broken heart !

This accident was quickly divulged throughout the whole army, with many bitter execrations upon a war so unnatural and barbarous ; and yet all the while they continued to butcher one another without mercy.

This victory was soon followed with the surrender of Cremona, which was plundered the space of four days together, and then burnt to the ground, because of its attachment to the Emperor's party. The two preceding battles, and the taking of the town,

town, cost fifty thousand lives killed on both sides, besides the wounded.

The traitor Caecina would have been tore to pieces by the enraged soldiery, had not Primus sent him away under a strong guard to Vespasian.

When Vitellius first heard of his defection, he sent Valens to take the command in his stead. But this general, hearing by the way of the terrible overthrow at Cremona, withdrew to Hetruria, and there concerted the design of rousing the Germans and Gauls in his Sovereign's cause. For this end Valens embarked at Pisa, and, landing on the Gaulish shore, was seized by some friends of Vespasian, who cutting off his head, sent it back to Italy upon the end of a pole, hoping thereby to strike the greater terror in the Vitellian party, and force them the sooner to a submission.

C H A P.

C H A P. XLII.

MEAN time, the Emperor drowned all his cares in wine and feasting; prohibited all discourse in the city about the war, which, for that very reason, became more frequent than before. In his presence, every body cherished his hopes, whilst the enemy lay at a distance. But winter being over, and Primus having crossed the Appenine, and advanced with his army as far as Terni, the whole city was in the utmost consternation.

Vitellius himself knew nothing of the art of war; and when he had raised great numbers of the rabble at Rome, to whom he gave the name of legions, he was continually asking, like a child at school, the most frivolous questions, respecting the
drawing

drawing up of his troops, the properest mode of discipline, &c. by which he greatly exposed his weakness ; and this appeared still more, from his always betraying the utmost fear upon every report of the enemy's progress, when he never failed to get dead drunk.

Wearied with a short attendance in his camp near the city, he returned to his palace to wait his fate. Nothing now remained in his hands but Rome itself, of which Flavius Sabinus was governour. Sabinus was the elder brother of Vespasian, and had hitherto lived in good terms with the Emperor, with whom he held frequent conferences about the means of restoring public peace. For this purpose Vitellius came at last to consent to a resignation of the empire, upon certain conditions, which Sabinus assured him should be ratified and approved by his brother Vespasian.

Vitel-

Vitellius did not long enjoy the fruits of his peace. His friends, or rather courtiers, represented to him how insecure the terms were, since the performance depended upon the wanton humour of the conqueror. However, he held out for a while against their remonstrances, and even walked from the palace in deep mourning to an assembly of the people, to whom he declared his firm resolution to quit the Imperial dignity for the sake of the public tranquillity. Then recommending himself, his wife, and children, to their compassion, he burst into tears ! ungirt the sword from his side, and, holding it out to the Consul Caecilius Simplex, the consul refused to receive it ; and the whole assembly, struck with the scene, opposed his resignation with loud clamours.

The Emperor, upon withdrawing from the assembly, declared his design of going straight to the temple of Concord, and there laying down the ensigns of the Imperial rank.

rank. But the people carefully shut up every street and avenue, except that which led him back to his palace, to which he was in a manner forced to return.

Mean while, the report getting way that Vitellius had abdicated the empire, all the principal senators, knights, and others, with the city guards, crowded to the house of Sabinus, to compliment him upon his brother's advancement. Here the news flew that Vitellius, encouraged by the people and his German guards, was returned to the palace.

Sabinus having, as he imagined, gone too far to retreat, he was advised to take up arms, and force Vitellius to abide by his late agreement.

Accordingly, he advanced with a body of armed men towards the palace ; but was beat back by the Emperor's party, who attacked him with such fury, that he was forced to shut himself up in the capitol, where

where he was instantly besieged by the Vitellians.

Sabinus found means, in the dead of the night, to acquaint Primus with his danger. He even got his two sons, Sabinus and Clemens, and his brother's son Domitian, introduced into his present quarters.

The next morning, before hostilities began on either side, Sabinus sent Cornelius Martialis, a centurion of the first rank, to remind Vitellius of his engagements, and to question him a little as to his late conduct. Vitellius cast the blame upon the people and soldiery, whose ardour he could not restrain : He even advised Martialis to return by a private way, as they would likely proceed to murder him, for appearing as the agent of a peace they abhorred.

Martialis was but just returned to the capitol, when the besiegers began the attack like madmen. Those within strove
with

with showers of stones and tiles to overwhelm them. At last the Vetellians, setting fire to the gates, must have immediately entered, had not Sabinus caused pull down the statues, &c. on all hands ; and with these glorious monuments of antiquity, raised in the very entrance a new wall.

Then it was that the Vitellians mounted the contiguous buildings ; and, attacking the capitol on all sides at once, the case of Sabinus became nearly desperate. The roofs of the houses taking fire, the flames spread in a moment to the porticos of the capitol ; and being there nourished with the great quantities of old timber, this stately edifice was quickly burnt to the ground.

It was still burning, when the besiegers, rushing in, put all to the sword who opposed them. Amongst others, Martialis, Æmilius Pacenis, Casperius Niger, and Didius Scaeva, were killed on the spot. Sabinus was seized and loaded with irons.

K k

Great

Great numbers made their escape. Domitian, the same who was afterwards Emperor, had the good fortune to escape by the contrivance of his freedman, who put on him a linen robe, the habit of the priests, who offered sacrifices in the capitol.

The enraged soldiers carried Sabinus to Vitellius, crying loudly for his execution ; but, not finding the Emperor in the same humour, they stabbed him in his presence with a dagger. Then cutting off his head, they dragged his trunk through the streets to the *Scalae Gemoniae*, like a common malefactor. The Consul Atticus, who was likewise in their hands, they pardoned, in regard he took upon himself the guilt of setting fire to the capitol.

Sabinus had served the commonwealth thirty-five years as a commander in armies ; had been seven years governour of *Maesia*, and twelve years governour of *Rome* ; and
had

had always bore the character of an honest man. His greatest enemies have only reproached him with being too free in speaking, which often drew him into difficulties, from which it required his prudence to extricate him.

C H A P.

C H A P. XLIII.

PRIMUS, upon the first notice of the late commotion at Rome, detached Cerealis with a thousand horse, ordering him to enter the city by the Salarian way, whilst he himself advanced with his whole forces by the great Flaminian road.

Cerealis was attacked near the city, and put to flight ; an event which gave fresh courage to the Vitellians, who pursued him as far as Fidenae.

As for Primus, he came the first night to a place called the Red Rocks, where he received the dismal news that Sabinus was murdered, the capitol burnt, and that the populace and slaves, aided by some German soldiers, were all in arms for Vitellius.

Mean

Mean time, the Emperor sent ambassadors, attended by the vestal virgins, to Primus, begging of him to suspend hostilities but for one day, since, in that space, all things might be amicably settled without bloodshed.

Primus immediately dismissed the virgins, with all demonstrations of honour, giving Vitellius for answer : That, by the murder of Sabinus, and the burning of the Capitol, all means of terminating the war by treaty were cut off. Then he ordered his whole army to march in battle array towards the metropolis, where a bloody battle was fought before the walls. The Vitellians giving way, were drove into the city, where the battle was renewed with fresh vigour in the very streets, and lasted several hours.

Great crouds of people of both sexes gathered about the combatants, and seemed to enjoy it as a piece of public sport. The
Vi-

Vitellians, sorely pressed, flew to the camp without the city, leaving the streets streaming with blood, and covered with dead bodies lying in heaps.

Primus pursued them hard, but was bravely repulsed in frequent sallies of the enemy. Having at last broke down the gates of their camp, there ensued a general slaughter of those within, who having no resource left them, died fighting to a man.

The Emperor, seeing his metropolis taken by storm, wandered from place to place, not knowing where to go, nor what to do, for the safety of his person. In this perplexity, he caused his chairmen to carry him to his wife's house upon Mount Aventine, hoping to conceal himself there till it was dark, and then set out for Terracina, where his brother Lucius commanded some forces.

But

But changing his mind, upon a false report, that a treaty of peace was concluded, he returned to his palace. Here every thing appeared dreary and dismal ! hardly a creature to be seen ! Such of his slaves and domestics as fell in his way would not stand a moment to speak with him. No body appeared to comfort him, for fear of being involved in his ruin.

Thus deserted, he began to reflect a little, and was in a deep reverie about the means of making his escape, when a party of the enemy came pell-mell into the palace, looking for plunder. Hereupon he slips into the porter's lodge, and conceals himself behind a bed. He had occasion for all his cunning. Not a hole nor corner escaped the enemy. Hitting at last upon the porter's lodge, they saw a man lurking behind the bed. They presently seized and questioned him, If he knew any thing about Vitellius ?

The

The Emperor pretended ignorance, and would have deceived them, had not the tribune Julius Placidus, by accident, stepped in and informed against him.

The moment he was known, he seemed greatly disturbed ; and, pretending to have matters of the last importance to impart to Vespasian, he earnestly begged to be kept, if it were in prison, till his arrival. Deaf to all his prayers and entreaties, they forthwith tied his hands behind his back, threw an halter about his neck, rent all his apparel, and dragged him almost naked through the street called the Sacred Way, into the Forum, forcing him, with their swords pointed at his throat, to hold up his head, and present his face to the insults of the rabble, who now reviled him with a thousand indignities.

Whilst Vitellius was thus maltreated, a German soldier came up, and discharged a furious blow at the tribune Placidus, whose
ear

ear he cut off. The soldier was instantly killed for his boldness.

The rabble of Rome were now gathered together from all parts to insult their Emperor, for whom they so lately fought like tygers. They upbraided him with his gluttony, his lewdness, and even with the imperfections of his body—for he was enormously tall, corpulent, and somewhat lame, having been hurt by a fall from a chariot, whilst he drove with Caligula in the Circus. He bore the grossest abuses imaginable, without uttering a single word, except to the tribune Placidus, who treating him in a very unbecoming manner, he told him that he had been nevertheless his Emperor.

They carried him next to the common charnel of malefactors, the *Scalae Gemoniae*, which was still reeking with the blood of Flavius Sabinus. Here they killed him, not all at once, but by degrees.

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Then

Then they dragged his dead corpse to the Tiber ; but it was soon after taken up and buried, through the care of his widow Galeria Fundana.

Such was the end of Aulus Vitellius, the ninth Emperor of Rome, in the fifty-fourth year of his age ; having reigned, from the death of Otho, eight months, and a few days. It was his father Lucius Vitellius, that base sycophant, who sacrificed Valerius Asiaticus to the avarice of Messalina, in the manner already mentioned.

Vespasian being still at a great distance, the whole power at Rome remained for some time with Primus, who plundered without mercy, and suffered his men to commit numberless disorders. Such as expected peace upon the death of Vitellius were greatly mistaken : The war seemed rather to begin afresh. Now every family of any affluence, on pretence they were Vitellians, were subjected to the fury of Primus, and

and his rapacious foldiers, who exhibited nothing, for feveral days, but fcenes of murder and pillage—all the dreadful calamities and outcries of a city stormed and sacked !

CHAP.

C H A P. XLIV.

THUS far have I advanced in the Roman history, from the death of Sejanus, the time of my arrival in the city, to the death of Vitellius, comprehending the space of thirty-nine years—herein giving a specimen of her Emperors, who have shewn themselves the scourges and plagues of mankind, instead of being, what they ought to have been, their protectors and defenders.

It might be asked, How it came about that so brave a people yielded tamely to such tyranny?

The Romans having, in the times of their republic, subjected all the states and kingdoms of the then known world, were

no

no longer the same men. Their very conquests ruined them, by corrupting their manners. By importing the luxury and softness of the conquered nations, they were themselves overthrown in their turn, by the allurements of pleasure. That strict virtue which gained them the conquest of the world, gave way to venality. The consular dignity, after the subjection of the Kings Antiochus and Perseus, made hasty strides to a perpetual dictatorship; and the people, no longer fired with their wonted notions of liberty, gradually came under the yoke, which in the end overwhelmed them, and made them an easy prey to remote regions, who found it no hard task to crush a fabric already half rotten—of the materials whereof were reared the many structures now to be seen in Europe, Asia, and Africa—and these have since sent forth their fertile shoots, and extended their pliant branches, over the wilds of America, a fresh source of tumult and war.

The

The Romans were at first governed by Kings. Tarquin the Proud, their seventh King, was driven from the throne in the year of the city 245. Why? Because his son Sextus committed a rape upon Lucretia, a young Lady of quality.

From this period we date the commencement of the famous Roman republic, which became so formidable to the world, so terrible to crowned heads, and which, in the end, sunk into the vilest slavery, under the Emperors.

Marius and Sylla, rivals, men of consular dignity, began, about the year of Rome 660, those bloody civil wars, which ended in the extinction of the republic. Sylla got uppermost, and saw himself sole master of the empire. But he most generously made his countrymen a present of their liberties, and returned to the condition of a private citizen; and this was esteemed the noblest action of his life.

When

When Sylla had determined to sacrifice Julius Caesar, as one of Marius's friends, he was advised to spare him, in regard he was but a silly young lad, subject to the falling sickness, and incapable of hurting him. Sylla was of a different opinion; and told his council that he saw a great many Marius's in that young man. If Caesar had not made his escape, he had fallen amongst the many victims to Sylla's safety.

Caesar was reserved to embroil the world afresh. Having conquered the Gauls, Germans, and Britons, his great rival Pompey, and the nobility at Rome, thought his power dangerous to the state, and recalled him. Caesar obeyed the summons, by marching his victorious army to Rome, which was abandoned by his enemies, who flew over to Greece to wait him there. Here the battle of Pharsalia declared in favours of Caesar. Pompey, in his flight, fell into the hands of Ptolemy, the young King of Egypt,

Egypt, who basely caused murder him, Caesar pursued the fugitive, and wept bitterly at seeing his lifeless head. Cato, who saw Caesar forgive all his enemies, chose rather to kill himself than survive the liberty of his country.

This same Julius Caesar thought it below him to be any thing less than the first man at Rome. He obtained rather more than his wish; for he saw the whole world chained down at his feet. He gave a mortal wound to the liberty of his country; but there was not wanting men who thought fit to repay him in kind.

Brutus, a man in high office at Rome, conspired with Cassius, and many others, to murder their sovereign. The bloody deed was executed in the senate-house, in the presence of the senators, in a most barbarous manner! Here lies that celebrated conqueror of the world, Julius Caesar, weltering

tering in his blood, at the feet of his vile assassins!

Brutus immediately mounts the rostra to harrangue the people; not doubting but that they would extol him for their deliverance, and that the republic would that instant be resettled in its ancient form. Vain man! to think he would be praised for a parricide; an act of the deepest ingratitude recorded in history. Caesar had not only forgiven his fighting against him at Pharsalia, but took delight in advancing him to the highest employments in the state. From Caesar's great intimacy with Servilia, the mother of Brutus, and sister to Cato, some believed Brutus to be Caesar's own son. One thing is certain, Caesar always expressed a more than ordinary attachment to him.

At first, the citizens were thunderstruck at a tragedy so little expected. Happy those people who have such a Prince as Ju-

M m lius

his Caesar on the throne. He seemed born to command, and rule over mankind. Now it was that all his acts of pardon and beneficence were remembered. By the address of Mark Antony, the people's fury was wrought up to such a pitch, that all the conspirators who still remained in the city fell immediate victims to their rage. Brutus and Cassius took care to secure their lives, for the present, by flight. They betook themselves to Greece, and were joyfully received at Athens, where the people began to discover the same zeal for liberty which fired their ancestors of old. The Athenians were joined by most of the eastern nations; so that Brutus and Cassius soon saw themselves at the head of a very formidable army.

Caesar was killed in the fifty-fourth year of his age, in the year of Rome 710. His great-nephew, Octavius, and heir by adoption, afterwards distinguished by the name of Augustus, set up, with Antony, to avenge
his

his death ; divided between them the Roman empire ; proscribed and put to death every person any ways obnoxious to either ; amongst these was Cicero, that famous orator and patriot, who, though the friend of Octavius, was sacrificed for his virulent speeches against Antony, called his *Philippics*.

The battle of Philippi determined the war between Caesar's avengers and his murderers. Brutus thought himself unfortunate in surviving it. His life had been a burthen to him ever since he stained his hands in the blood of his benefactor. He was haunted every night by ghosts and spectres ; and now, having escaped a battle which lasted several days, he became more wretched than ever, and urged his slave to kill him, which he did with reluctance.

Cassius, too, thought himself unhappy in outliving even the first day's action. This same Cassius, who had formerly been a
great

great warrior, was now seized with such terror, that he esteemed it an act of the greatest friendship in his attendants to kill and bury him directly on the spot, which was accordingly done. Such melancholy preys upon the guilty conscience! Their very thoughts would soon have devoured them.

The glory of the victory fell to the share of Antony. As for Octavius, he kept himself almost the whole time of the battle shut up in his tent, pretending to be greatly indisposed.

C H A P.

C H A P. XLV.

AFTER the death of Brutus and Cassius, there were no more struggles for liberty, but for the empire. The question was, Shall Antony or Octavius rule the world? By their late arrangement, the eastern fell to Antony's share, and the western to Octavius; and they agreed to let Lepidus have Africa. There was enough of territory for them all; but the two former could not be satisfied.

Octavius, who had Italy, and all the provinces westwards, having wrested the island of Sicily from the son of the great Pompey, he began to form other projects. On pretence of cementing a closer friendship with Antony, he gave him his sister Octavia in marriage, who was just become a widow
by

by the death of Marcellus, as was Antony by the death of his wife Fulvia.

Unhappily for Antony, he had lately contracted a kind of intimacy with Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt. Whilst he was at Tarsus, settling the affairs of the east, she came to him, in consequence of his summons, to answer for the conduct of such of her governours as had sided with Cassius.

Fatal meeting! But, in what manner did she appear? Why, she came up the river Cydnus in a most magnificent galley, the sails of which were of purple. A cloth of gold was raised above the deck, under which sat the Queen, dressed like Venus, attended by the virgins of her court. Musical instruments warbled the softest airs, to which the oars kept time. Crouds of people flocked from all parts to see the show, telling one another, that Venus was coming to visit Bacchus for the good of Asia.

As

As soon as she landed, Antony sent to invite her to supper : But she made him to understand, that it would be more agreeable to her to receive him herself, in the tents she had caused to be erected upon the banks of the river. Thither Antony hastened, like a bird to the snare. Here the scene was adorned with trees and groves, and such an infinity of lights, that midnight seemed as clear as day. Cleopatra made, all at once, such a display of her charms as struck Antony to the quick. Not a word was spoke respecting the treachery of her governours. All was love and good humour the first night.

Whilst they remained at Tarsus, Cleopatra improved the time, by making chains to secure her new conquest. It happened, however, that Antony, upon his return to Italy, did not hesitate to marry Octavia ; at which Cleopatra was so highly offended, that, to appease her, he added to her dominions Phoenicia, the lower Syria, the island
of

of Cyprus, with part of Cilicia, Judea, and Arabia ; presents which gave great umbrage to the Roman people, who were highly discontented at the excessive honours which were paid to this foreign Princess.

Cleopatra managed Antony with such address, that she stole his heart, of which he had no longer the command. It was in order to recover himself, and resume the wonted man, that he set out upon an expedition against the Parthians, in which his military character gained no additional lustre. He grew unhappy from absence; and Cleopatra affected to be still more so. Upon his return, she met him in Phoenicia; and hearing that Octavia, who had left Rome to join her husband, was already arrived at Athens, she seemed altogether inconsolable.

Cleopatra dreaded extremely a rival of Octavia's great beauty and merit, and employed her whole art to oblige Antony to abandon

abandon his wife, that she might have the whole man to herself. Her endeavours were but too successful; for Octavia was in a manner forced to return to Rome, after a series of harsh messages from her faithless husband, who slighted her as Cleopatra desired.

The Romans saw, with great concern, this unworthy treatment of the best of women. Her brother, Octavius, improved their discontent to his own aggrandisement, as we shall see presently.

Octavia and Cleopatra were nearly equal in point of beauty, but differed widely as to the quality of their minds. The former was a perfect pattern of every virtue that can adorn her sex. The latter, with a bright understanding, and a knowledge of most languages, which she spoke fluently, was a compound of dissimulation, perfidy, ambition, lewdness, and cruelty. Cleopatra was debauched when very young by

N n

Julius

Julius Caesar, just after the defeat and death of Pompey. At this time Cleopatra was at war with her brother Ptolemy. This brother chancing to be drowned, Caesar settled the crown of Egypt upon Cleopatra, and her surviving brother, who was very young, jointly. When her brother, who was at the same time her husband, came to an age to govern for himself, she poisoned him, and remained sole Queen of Egypt.

Antony and Cleopatra retired to Alexandria, where they spent whole days and nights in feasting, trifling amusements, and the most dissipated loose scenes imaginable. To please his Queen, and make her completely happy, he sent deputies to Rome, to publish his divorce from Octavia, with orders to command her to leave his house, with all their children. Octavia, deeply affected, obeyed the order; and, so far from resenting this ill treatment, she earnestly besought her brother not to involve the

the world in a war upon her account. This great goodness of heart served to set off her charms with fresh lustre, and again awaked the people's indignation against the authors of her grief.

Her brother Octavius and Antony had already shewn strong marks of mutual hatred, in a kind of paper-war; in which Antony reproached Caesar, not only with cowardice, but with cruelty, and even with his having gained the favour of his great uncle, Julius Caesar, at the expence of his modesty. Octavius was at no loss to balance accounts, by throwing a sufficiency into the other scale; but he chose to take a more effectual method than bare reproaches. He caused war to be declared against Cleopatra Queen of Egypt.

The Ambracian Gulph in Epirus became the scene of that famous sea-fight which, in its consequences, restored the world to the family of Caesar. It was fought near
the

the city of Actium, from whence it derived its name, on the second day of September, in the year of Rome 722.

Here it was that Cleopatra and Antony appeared in person, but in different ships. Cleopatra, before the battle, talked loudly of subverting the whole Roman empire at one stroke. She declared it to be impossible for Caesar's ships to come near her's without being dashed to pieces. However, when the engagement began, she was seized with a panic, and betook herself to flight.

Antony seeing this, made haste after her; and, stepping on board her galley, he sat down upon the deck, leaning his head upon his hands and knees. He kept in this posture for days together, without once speaking to Cleopatra.

Antony's affairs sunk with himself. His sea and land-forces, seeing themselves abandoned

done by their General, were not long in surrendering themselves to Caesar, who received them with open arms.

Cleopatra steered straight over to Alexandria, ; and, when she came in sight of that port, she caused her ships to be crowned, as if returned from victory—for she suspected, not without reason, that, if her shameful flight was known, she would be refused entrance. The moment she landed, she caused put to death such of the great lords of the kingdom as were most likely to take fire at her unworthy conduct.

Antony was now become like a man drowning and grasping at every twig to save himself. Cleopatra, to whom he had again opened his mind, behaved to him with marks of her usual tenderness, but secretly resolved to make a sacrifice of him to Caesar, not doubting but that, in a proper time, she would gain more upon the conqueror

queror by her personal charms, than by the force of arms. With this view, she advised Antony to send ambassadors to Caesar with proposals of peace. At the same time, she sent her own ambassadors, to whom she gave instructions of a private nature.

Caesar would not so much as hear Antony's deputies ; but those of Cleopatra were honourably received, and dismissed with full assurances that all her demands would be granted, provided she betrayed Antony.

Caesar marched early in the spring for Egypt. Upon coming to Pelusium, a place, of great strength, situated in the very entrance to Egypt, and which might have held out against the invader a considerable time ; Seleucus the governour, having got secret orders from Cleopatra, surrendered the place upon the first summons. This was not all : The Queen's fleet meeting that of Caesar's off Alexandria, struck in the same manner, without resistance.

An-

Antony, who was an eye-witness of this last surrender, seeing himself betrayed by the woman he loved to distraction, flew like a madman to the palace to murder her; but did not find her there.

Cleopatra foresaw the storm; and took shelter in the quarter where stood the tombs of the kings and queens of Egypt, which was surrounded with high walls. To clear herself of the disgrace of Pelusium, she had sacrificed the governor to Antony's resentment; but, not knowing how to appease him for the surrender of her fleet, she sent him word, that, preferring an honourable death to a shameful captivity, she had killed herself amongst the tombs of her ancestors, where she had also made choice of her own sepulchre.

At this news Antony's excessive rage softened in a moment into a fit of immoderate grief! and he thought that instant of following her example. Accordingly,
having

having shut the door upon himself and his slave—the slave refused to execute the sad office—and, when urged to do it, he stabbed himself, and fell dead at Antony's feet; who looking upon this as a fresh example for himself, he takes his sword, and piercing his body, falls down by his expiring slave, their blood gushing in mingled streams!

That moment an officer of the Queen's guards came to acquaint him that she was still alive. Hereupon he opened his dying eyes, and begged to have his wound dressed, that he might once more go and see his beloved Queen.

She refused, however, to open her gates to him, for fear of a surprise; but she appeared at a high window, from whence she threw down chains and cords; to which the body of Antony being fastened, she and her women exerted their whole strength,

strength, and drew him up. He expired soon after in the Queen's arms.

Mean time, Caesar was in great hopes that the Queen's love of life would preserve her to be an ornament to his triumph. He sent her word that he intended to make her a visit. The Queen, recollecting that she had been irresistible to his great-uncle Julius Caesar, and to Antony, resolved once more to employ her charms, to strike the young victor's heart. She knew his foible. She was not ignorant that he had lately divorced his wife Scribonia, to make way for Livia, the wife of another man. She was not without hopes that Caesar's heart would immediately yield to the darts of her all-powerful eyes.

Cleopatra was mistaken in her calculation. Caesar saw her without emotion; heard her talk with great indifference; and took his leave with a coldness which great-

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ly added to the unfortunate Queen's distress.

It was but a few days after this interview that she found means to put an end to her life. An aspic was conveyed to her, by her own contrivance, in a basket of figs, with the bite of which she died, as she expected, without much pain. She took this desperate resolution, in order to escape the ignominy of adorning Caesar's triumph.

Octavius Caesar was now sole Emperor, by the name of Augustus. He had a daughter by his divorced wife, named Julia. Her he married to Agrippa, his admiral, to whom he was chiefly indebted for all his victories, particularly the conquest of Sicily, and the great victory at Actium. The sons of this marriage were thought to be sacrificed to the ambition of Livia, who procured the succession to the empire in favours of her son Tiberius.

Livia

Livia had no children to Augustus ; but, by her former husband, she had two sons, Tiberius and Drusus. The latter was married to Antonia, the daughter of Antony and Octavia. The great Germanicus, the Emperor Claudius, and some daughters, were the fruit of this marriage.

This much I thought fit to repeat in this place, to show that, although Antony, in his own person, fell a victim to love ; yet, in his posterity, we have seen a succession of Emperors.

When the wars were ended, the government of Augustus was greatly admired for its mildness. His court was the receptacle of men of wit and learning, who were patronized by Maecenas, the friend and inseparable companion of Augustus. Virgil would never have been heard of, but for his misfortunes, had not Maecenas, after saving him from utter ruin, encouraged his poetic

poetic fire to take its course in the *Æneid*,
and other subjects, particularly of the
pastoral kind, which have immortalized
him.

C H A P.

C H A P. XLVI.

AFTER a stay of forty years in the city of Rome, from the death of Sejanus, to the second year of Vespasian's reign, an opportunity at last offered for me to return to the fortunate islands, which I embraced with joy. I longed extremely to see my wife, and my impatience was greatly heightened by delays; for, after embarking at Brundisium on board the Magdalene galley, we had to put in at Syracuse, to take in goods and passengers for Cadiz; which last mentioned port we did not reach, till after a tedious passage of fifty days.

In our run between Cadiz and the fortunate islands, we were overtaken by a violent storm, which drove us far west-wards

wards over ocean,—and having on board only five days provisions, the whole ships company, myself excepted, died for want of food.

Seeing myself sole master of the Magdalene, I quietly suffered her to drive as the winds and currents directed, looking eagerly out for land. I got my wish the same day I was left alone. The ship breaking to pieces upon the banks of a deserted island, I landed, and went directly in search of something to eat and drink. I found various kinds of fruits, which, with the herbage of the island, and a running stream of fine fresh water, greatly refreshed me.

I began next to consider what was best to be done to make time easy upon my hands. By good fortune I had saved some paper and ink,—the island furnished me with pens,—and having erected a small house upon the face of a hill, and made myself

myself a table out of the broken pieces of the Magdalene, I fell to work, and wrote down what I knew, or had heard of the Roman history.

I had been in this solitude, without a companion, during the space of six hundred years and upwards, when one day, as I was out upon my walk, I cast my eyes upon a woman lying fast asleep amongst some shrubs, just by the side of a warbling brook. It would have been cruel to awake her, till she got out her nap; and therefore, I diverted myself a little with the ideas which naturally crowded upon my fancy, at an encounter so unexpected.

When she opened her eyes, and was beginning to raise herself from the ground, I came up and addressed her in the Latin tongue, which happily she understood. I begged of her to tell me her history, which she related as it is written in the following chapter.

C H A P.

C H A P. XLVII.

MY name is Mary. I was born in Jerusalem. My father James was of the party of Mahomet; and Martha my mother, though bred a Christian, did outwardly comply with any religion for the sake of peace.

The forming and fashioning of new religions, was in great vogue in my youthful days. This led me to judge for myself,—for I was unwilling to be dragged by either of the parties, of whom there was no end. My religion consists in the adoration of one supreme being. My religion has supported me under all the hardships of my life. My trust is in God, who has often chastised me for my good; and because I was proud he has humbled me.

It remains that I tell you after what turns of fortune I came at last to be landed on this very spot of ground.

My father dying at my sixteenth year, my mother and I left Jerusalem, and went to Joppa to live there with my eldest brother Daniel. Here, as I was one evening walking by the sea side washing my legs, some sailors lying in ambush just by, sallied forth and seized my person. They carried me directly on board their vessel, where a rich Alexandrian merchant, struck with what he called my charms, declared at once that he would marry me ; and he was as good as his word.

My husband Melibeus kept me for some time at Alexandria, in the full enjoyment of as much elegance, as if I had been queen of the country. But unhappily, he was of a jealous temper ; and suspecting, without just cause, that a foreign officer in

P P the

the city held an intrigue with me, they fought and were both killed.

By my husband's will, I was left in possession of his whole estate, worth one hundred talents of gold, besides goods, and lands, to a much greater amount.

Although I was now pregnant with my first child, I was immediately beset with a multitude of lovers, who aimed, I suppose, chiefly at my fortune.

As if I had been destined for the mercantile line, I fell next to the lot of one Heraclius, a merchant in Constantinople, who had a great correspondence in trade with my late husband. Heraclius was so very impatient, that he would by no sort of arguments be persuaded to wait my delivery.

We failed for Constantinople; but, before we reached that port, I was delivered
of

of a boy at sea ; and Heraclius, pretending to be of the priestly kidney, insisted upon christening the child with his own hands. A basin of water, as I imagined, was brought for that purpose ; and Heraclius, casting a handful of it into the child's eyes, young Melibeus was blinded that moment ; nor did he survive the shock above a day ! The basin, it seems, was filled, by my husband's direction, with a spiritous liquor as pure as water, but full of fire.

My grief and rage got now uppermost. However, without troubling myself to utter the reproaches my heart suggested against my husband, I just told him, once for all, that he should never be admitted to consummate his marriage ; never again eat or drink with me ; nor appear seated in my presence.

This wounded him to the quick. Dreading extremely his impending doom for what he had done, and terrified at the clamours

mours of the whole ship's company, he swallowed poison, which being rather slow in its operation, he took a still readier way to effect his design, by throwing himself into the sea.

The Captain of the ship, Narcissus by name, perhaps attached to me from other motives than barely my great fortune, was loth to put me on shore till he had made sure of his prize. For this purpose he protracted the voyage, by steering frequently on a wrong course. He had the boldness one day to propose the question; and, when I told him that he must not think of it, he went away raving mad, swearing he would sink the ship rather than suffer me to escape him.

One of the passengers, observing that our passage was very much retarded by some means or other, and finding out that the Captain himself was the delinquent, he rather harshly charged him with neglect of duty.

duty. Hereupon they came to blows; and, in the scuffle, Narcissus was shoved overboard.

We landed the next day at Constantinople, where I wished to live, for a while, as privately as possible. But my endeavours were in vain. The gentlemen of the city had already marked me out. Scarcely giving me a few days repose, they came, and, as it were, invested my house by day and by night, watching with great care all my steps.

In my own mind I was determined never to marry again. But the pressing addresses of Constans, who had a large foreign traffic, and was thought immensely rich, carried me in spite of myself. At the time of our marriage, Constans appeared to live in all the affluence of a Prince, while, in fact, he was, as afterwards appeared, in the very last stage of bankruptcy;—so that his gaining me served only to keep

keep him a few months longer from sinking.

After living with me about two months, or thereby, that he might not witness his own fall, he embarked in an expedition up the Palus Maeotis, on pretence of exploring unknown regions to extend his commerce. On this occasion, he laid out the best part of my fortune in making the necessary preparations for the voyage, and took with him all the ready cash that could be found.

Soon after his departure, I found myself reduced to a very scanty allowance; and hearing that my husband, and a few more of his party, were killed in an encounter with the barbarians, I resolved to return to my mother at Joppa.

Whilst I was inquiring for a ship, the Captain of a Venetian galley, Valens by name, was struck with my person, which
even

even the greatest of misfortunes could not alter or depress. This same Valens, the better to compass his ends, pretended that he was bound for Joppa, and by that artifice enveigled me on board his galley.

When we were out at sea, he declared his passion; and it not being a place to start many difficulties, our marriage was immediately solemnized, to his inexpressible joy. I had not presence of mind to tell him of my late unfortunate connection with Constans, and that I was already near four months gone in my pregnancy; nor had my new husband sufficient discernment to perceive any such thing. Nay, he seemed perfectly happy; and, when I began, all of a sudden, to swell, he took all the merit to himself.

When I asked him if we were near Joppa, he began to smile; having, as he imagined, duped me. But, in fact, he was the dupe himself: For, upon my lying in at Venice,

Venice, something more than five months after our wedding, he became like a man besides himself, and thought only of secretly getting rid of me and my little boy, who was named Posthumus.

As soon as I was recovered, he re-embarked with me on board his ship, leaving the child in the keeping of his mother Valentina; and, having landed his cargo at Cadiz, he immediately set sail in search of some unpeopled island, on which he meant to leave me, because he said he could neither kill nor drown me.

After being several days the sport of the winds, it was but last night that I was landed on the banks of this shore.

C H A P.

C H A P. XLVIII.

WHEN Mary had done speaking, I asked her why she introduced her history with her religion?

She told me, that, in her younger years, it was the common topic; nothing was so much the subject of conversation:—That a new religion started up, took root, and spread itself far and wide for the space of about six hundred years, when, all at once, in many parts, it gave way to the followers of Mahomet, a bold and enterprising man, who pretended that he had received a commission from God to purge the earth of the several religions, ancient and modern, and with power to establish one of his own forming:—That this man had very

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great

great success: That a great number of miracles have been ascribed to him.

Here I interrupted her, and observed, that it was indeed much easier to tell the people of wonders and miracles than to perform them. Then I proceeded to make some remarks upon the quick transitions in her past life. But, whilst we sat upon the verdant turf, conversing in this manner, we were suddenly alarmed with the sight of a sail standing directly towards our island.

It proved to be Valens, who, touched with remorse at the idea of having left an innocent woman to be starved, was coming back to relieve her. He doubtless loved his wife; for, upon coming up, and seeing her in a man's company, he was seized with a fit of jealousy, which, as it were, nailed him to the spot. He seemed to be considering whether he should go immediately back to his vessel without speaking. In fact, he put about and walked some steps from us.

Still

Still he seemed wavering;—he made a full stop and looked back.

I began to guess at his thoughts. He was meditating my destruction; for having, as he believed, lain with his wife; but seemed to be in some doubt whether his crew would assist him in murdering a poor islander.

Whilst I was communicating these remarks to Mary, who entertained exactly the same opinion, Valens, in consequence of some sudden resolution, walked in some haste back to us, in order, I supposed, to survey my person a little more nearly.

I immediately rose to receive him. But Mary kept lying on the grass, without even turning her eyes upon him. This coldness in his wife, of which, by the bye, he was himself the cause, made him very uneasy: And, when he proposed to her to re-embark
with

with him on board his ship, her answer threw him into the deepest despair.

Valens was certainly a man of great sensibility. Unable, on this occasion, to support the violent tide of his animal spirits, he ran hastily to the sea side, and would have drowned himself, had not some of his crew seized him by force. They began to argue the matter with him; but this was lost labour upon him; he soon after seized a fresh opportunity, and accomplished his design.

Mary was extremely concerned at being thus the cause of his despair. He was not near so much regretted by his crew, who hated him for his cruelty to his wife.

The sailors very frankly offered to take Mary and me on board. They likewise promised to give me a cast to the Fortunate Islands, where Mary too meant to remain,
until

until an opportunity offered to waft her to Joppa.

But, whilst we still continued on shore, providing a stock of fresh water, and other necessaries, a very high wind, about midnight, drove the vessel from her anchorage; nor did we ever get another sight of her.

Besides Mary, I had now five of the seamen for my companions, who all died in about forty years, and left me once more in the sole possession of the island. It was during this period that I derived very great advantages from Mary's conversation. She informed my mind with the principles of religion, and impressed my soul with the noblest ideas of the Deity. She administered joy and consolation to us all. We could not help admiring her as something divine. The fruits of her heavenly and divine instructions will appear in the sequel.

C H A P.

C H A P. XLIX.

I WAS arrived at my sixteen hundred and twenty-eighth year, for I kept an exact journal of my life, when one day observing a ship in the offing, steering westwards, I hung up a signal, which had the desired effect. The vessel proved to be Spanish. She was bound for Buenos Ayres in South America, a country of which I had not heard till then.

Here we landed in the month of December, which, in these parts, was the height of summer. Here I was more fully informed of the great discoveries that had been made in geography during the time of my solitude. My curiosity was not satisfied: My eyes must needs be gratified. For this end, I resolved to travel across the
country,

country, and look out, in some port on its western shore, for my passage to the East Indies, where I hoped to procure some means of conveyance to my native quarter. And, although I could not expect to see my wife alive, still I would have the pleasure of surrounding this bit of earth and body of water.

I made several leagues up the river la Plata, through the favour of a small boat. Then taking to my feet, I had walked within a few miles of those huge mountains called the Andes, when, one evening, as I was looking out for a proper place to rest myself, I very happily fell in with an Indian family, consisting of a man, his wife, and two daughters. They had been gathering sticks to make a fire to prepare their supper. I made them a present of a knife and pair of scissars, and they kindly invited me to eat with them.

Never

Never was there seen a scene more beautiful. All nature seemed to be alive in the serenity of a fine summer evening. The game of the country came tripping around us without fear: The birds still kept singing: Our fire of aromatic sticks diffused the sweetest odours; and our plain repast, by cheering our hearts, gave a relish to these natural beauties, which were still heightened by the roaring of a neighbouring stream, which supplied us with drink.

I was not long in this enchanting state when I saw the necessity of a matrimonial connection with the Indians to secure their friendship. I cast my eyes on Angeliza the youngest daughter; and finding her no ways averse to the match, the consent of her parents was very easily obtained.

This girl had all the good qualities that can be derived from nature; and with these only, for art had as yet no share in
her

her formation, she daily gained ground upon my heart.

We had no fixed abode. We sauntered from place to place, using the whole country as our property ; for there was none that claimed any part of it as a right. I inclined our steps westwards, as much as possible, without discovering my design.

When we came to the foot of the mountains, we made up to their superb tops, assisted by an exceeding high wind in our backs. Here the wind redoubling its fury, I locked Angeliza fast in my arms ; and, the very next moment, an extraordinary gust sent us into immense regions of air ! The earth, eased of our weight, we were now sustained by a subtile fluid, before which we flew with an astonishing swiftness ! We had but a transient glance at the Peruvian woods. The hurricane, growing stronger as we advanced, drove us with an amazing rapidity a great many leagues over the great

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Pacific

Pacific ocean ! but gradually losing its vigour, we began to feel ourselves sinking downwards. Happily we fell into the bosom of a meadow covered with fine sweet hay, which supplied at once the means of contemplation and repose.

We were in our hearts thanking God for our safe deliverance from the fury of the wind, and the dangers of the wide ocean, when Farmer Cony, who looked upon us as creatures of another world, in regard he had seen us drop from the clouds, came up and spoke to us. After expressing great surprise at our late heavenly and majestic flight, he carried us to his house, and most generously supplied our present wants.— This good and worthy man had a most amiable woman to his wife, and nine children, all of whom were daughters, lovely and beautiful.

Cony gave us to understand, that we had fallen upon an island of large extent, populous,

pulous, and well cultivated. It was named Mafekang ; had been long divided into two kingdoms, which were now united under one monarch. He told us that it derived many advantages with regard to commerce, from situation, and from a number of flourishing colonies she had planted in foreign parts.

CHAP.

C H A P. L.

AFTER my wife and I had rested a few months with Cony, we set out for Segá, the capital city, where we found the court in a ferment. They resolved, after warm debates, to fix the yoke upon their infant settlements abroad by force of arms.

It happened, however, that the colonies in their extreme youth were unable to bear the pricking pain of the rod of taxes; so they began to turn rusty. Their loud complaints came thundering over seas into the ears of the parent state, who began to pelt them for disobedience.

The mother and her bairns were wrought up to such a pitch of anger that they came
to

to blows, and for some time kept kicking with their feet.

It happened that the children grew fat and lusty upon it ; for they were fed and sustained by the bounty of a sly old woman, the natural rival and implacable enemy of Masékang.

This same old woman, long celebrated for her gallantry, was likewise famous for keeping up her neighbours quarrels, by siding with the weakest party, and fomenting the broil. She had for her near neighbour a young woman, who, from a plain spinstrefs, was become a high and mighty Dutcheffs.

The Dutcheffs was, in every respect, equal to the old woman in point of flyness or cunning, but not quite so open and barefaced in her acts of lewdness and ferocity. Indeed, perhaps, it might be ascribed to her youth and bashfulness, that the Dutcheffs
always

always carried on her intrigues secretly and in the dark.

This amiable young Dutchess was always ready to give up her body for hire to either of the contending parties—would run their errands, and carry their parcels, but ever carefully avoided taking part in any costly squabble from whence no profit could be derived. Mafekang, having detected her secret acts of corruption, fell upon her pell-mell, tore her hair by the very roots, and ceased not to pinch and scart her about the vital parts.

The Dutchess, in her temper, slow to anger, but sure in her strokes of revenge, did not fail to resent these attacks, by siding directly with the old woman.

This same old woman had lately been married to the King of Metalina, with whom, and her Grace the Dutchess, joined to the efforts of the infant colonies,
Mafekang

Masekang seemed to have got a bloody piece of work upon her hands. The confederacy was so strong and formidable, that it was wondered by many how Masekang could possibly stand it.

Still, however, she maintained the struggle. But the horrible butchery ! the torrents of blood, the vast numbers of innocent people, who lost, some their lives, some their fortunes, others both ;—all this should be a lasting example to teach mothers and their children the necessity of harmony, and guard them against all unnatural disputes.

In the end, the colonies threw off the yoke, and Masekang is left maimed and defaced in such a terrible manner, that many able physicians think her incurable, unless she can submit to the proper remedy.

In

In the present contest, many people blamed the Dutchess; for Masékang, in quality of nurse, had assisted in protecting her in her childhood.

It is very true, the Dutchess had not been altogether unmindful of past favours; for, when she grew up to a proper age, she very humanely brought cordials to her old nurse when she was in ill health; and, at one remarkable period, she saved her life, when her constitution was rather more than half rotten.

Before we impeach the Dutchess with ingratitude, we must observe, that, in most broils, there are faults on both sides; and it is well known, that interest and ambition do but too often dissolve the strongest ties of friendship and alliance.

C H A P. LI.

NEAR to Masekang there is a large continent, inhabited by divers nations renowned for their knowledge in the arts, and for their extensive commerce. Their frequent intercourse with the Masekangs afforded me fresh intelligence every day of what was transacting abroad. My wife, Angeliza, came into me one day, betraying extreme surprise at a piece of news. I was then reclined upon a sofa, in an abyss of thought ; and now she set me a-thinking in good earnest.

The passage contained as follows :—
There is carried captive into the city of Sufa, the capital of Kalikang, the celebrated Liza, who, notwithstanding her great age,

for she is upwards of seventeen hundred years, is still remarkable for her great beauty, and no less so for her superior understanding and knowledge of the world. She was born in a country called Cornwall—was married when young in the island of Teneriff—soon after lost her husband—has since remained a widow—she speaks most languages—and has so gained upon Omiah, King of Kalikang, that he has taken her into his keeping.

At this news I felt very strangely ! I recalled to my remembrance the happy days I had enjoyed with Liza on the fortunate island, now, it seems, called Teneriff. I was happy to find that she was still alive, and so well ; that she was still unmarried, though she believed me to be lost. But I was not so glad to hear that she had fallen into the hands of a Prince.

My anxiety to see Liza once more was very great ; and luckily there was a vessel
bound

bound for Sufa just ready to sail, on board of which Angeliza and I presently embarked.

After an easy passage of one month we entered the river Lae, on which stands the city of Sufa. Upon our arrival in this metropolis my difficulties began. King Omi-ah was a perfect tyrant. Upon stating my business to Tinckle his secretary, and captain of his guards, he assured me, that to mention my former connection with Liza, would endanger my life; and that to see her, or even correspond with her, would be equally dangerous.

How mortifying was all this! Now, that I was got almost next door to Liza, I seemed farther from her than when I left Segal!

Tinckle, perceiving my uneasiness, was at some pains to console me. He promised
privately

privately to acquaint Liza with my arrival in the city ; and, in the mean time, gave me the following specimen of Omiah's character.

You must know, says he, that about one year ago, I married Leona, a native of a neighbouring island, whose beauty outshined the whole of the court ladies. I had not enjoyed her above a week, when the King, grudging me so great a happiness, expressly demanded her to himself. I durst neither refuse his request, nor shew the least displeasure in my features, without falling an immediate victim to his anger. Leona was immediately given up into his rapacious hands, in which she withered away like a flower, and died in about a month. He has loaded me with favours, and done every in his power to oblige me ; but to no purpose—for I can never esteem nor value him, but as a villain. Tinkle concluded with desiring my
 atten-

attendance, at a great council of the discontented Lords and Gentlemen, who, weary of the tyranny, were determined, at all events, either to perish or regain their lost liberties.

CHAP.

C H A P. LII.

THE most remarkable personages who formed this grand council of the disaffected to government were, Tinckle, whose subject of complaint we have just seen :

Ajax, a nobleman of the first rank, whose only son, Caesar, for barely speaking a few treasonable words, was most barbarously executed :

Vixen, the treasurer, whom the King struck with his cane for refusing the money he had not to advance :

Ilion, late general of the forces, now in disgrace, for having suffered himself to be
vanquished

vanquished by an enemy twice his numbers :

Cuff, perfumer to the King, whose wife, Shaeva, washing her legs one evening in a piece of water within view of the palace, she very innocently drew upon her person his Majesty's amorous eyes ; who, unable to resist the temptation, caused her instantly to be brought to the palace. Cuff himself was sent for, and ordered to bring some of the richest perfumes in these parts. And now the royal chamber, and particularly the bed, being highly perfumed, Shaeva was obliged to comply ; whilst her husband, Cuff, was taken down stairs, and had served up to him, by the butler, some of the very best viands in the King's larder, in which the butler had orders to mix some grains of potent poison. However, Cuff, very cautiously, would taste nothing, save the leg and wing of a very large turkey, which he eat complete ; all the while consoling himself with the idea of the King's impotency, and
the

the certain knowledge he had, some weeks before, of his wife's pregnancy.

There might be added to the list of disaffected to government, a great many more of the first men in the kingdom, who, along with those just mentioned, offered, all to a man, to venture their lives and fortunes in restoring their laws and liberties, which, at the present time, seemed entirely sunk in the pit of tyranny and oppression.

In our debates, it was strongly urged by Vixen, that the seizing of Omiah's person, by surprise, ought to be our principal object. He pointed out the danger of an open rupture with a Prince who headed a well disciplined army: That, in case we succeeded as to the seizing of his person, we should do more real service in that single event than we could propose in an open war of several years duration.

Every

Every body came the more readily into Vixen's plan, since it promised not only a great saving of time and money, but of men's lives.

It was asked by Ilion, in the mean time, what should be done with the King's person, when we came to get a fast grip of him. The majority of the conspirators were inclined to put him to instant death; since there would be no peace, probably, while he lived.

These resolves were just going to receive the authority of the assembly, when I thought fit to rise up, and give my reasons for a different conduct. I represented, that, if there was no other cause for killing the King than merely to procure peace, by putting him out of the way, I myself should undertake the business without taking his life: That, in regard I was just now bound for Asia, and from thence to the most dis-

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tant

tant parts of Europe, I should be answerable, if they would only place him in my keeping, that he should never again set a foot on any of the Kalish territories: That it indeed became the grandeur and dignity of their empire to furnish their King with a ship for his banishment, and, at the same time, to settle a pension upon him for life.

My overtures were listened to. It was immediately determined that King Omiah should be given over to my keeping, with an annual pension of ten thousand oriads; and that a ship should be in immediate readiness for our reception the instant the King's person was seized.

The mode, the time, and place of attack, were the next questions. Some thought it would be best when out upon his airings; others were for making the palace itself the scene of action. These last carried it.

Tinkle

Tinckle undertook the work within doors ; whilst Ilion, with a chosen body of brave men, secured the avenues without.

It was next moved to elect another King, to secure the government from anarchy, upon the event of Omiah's deposition and banishment. But this was delayed for the present.

When the assembly broke up, I went and offered my assistance to Tinckle in the enterprise he was going upon ; to which he consented. He admitted likewise into his party Machoniah, a famous physician, Tuck the astronomer, and some others of the first distinction.

The middle of the present night was fixed upon for the execution of the plot, it being justly feared that our design might be detected if there was the smallest delay. Tinckle had taken care to form the guard, that day on duty, of men entirely devoted to

to his service. As for the domestics of the palace, they had orders to receive the commander of the guards at all hours.

After taking our supper, and drinking a bowl or two of wine, we set off, about midnight, straight for the palace, where Tinckle obtained a ready admission for himself and all his party.

A new scene presented itself in the King's bed-chamber, which cannot but derive a clearer light from being wrought up in a dramatic dress. We went softly up stairs, and, entering the King's chamber door,

Omiab, (half raised upon his bed, screamed out),

Who comes? O my dear Tinckie, why this bold intrusion? Stay,—sheath it not in my bowels.—Why, surely, your magnanimity will never stoop to stab me!

Tinckle.

Tinckle. Don't cry.—Speak within bounds, or you are a dead man.

Omiab. Your will be done Tinckie.—What, Liza! Do you suffer a man to salute you in my presence?

Liza. Know, Sir, this is the lawful partner of my bed.—Your Majesty must think of me no more.

Omiab. O cruel Liza!—Dear Tinckie, strip me of every thing but Liza.—Woes me,—I am unaccustomed to contradiction: When it comes from female lips, it pours, like a torrent of poison, into the inmost recesses of my throbbing heart!

Tinckle. You deserve to be tortured in mind and body. Like a weakly shrub, you may bend for a while, but must soon break, and give way to the force of almighty vengeance.

Omiab.

Omiab. Dear Tinckie, What do you propose to do with me?

Tinckle. Banishment,—banishment for life; that's all.

Omiab. Woes me, that ever I breathed the breath of life! (in tears). Why, and for what end, was I formed in my mother's womb? Why such pains to bring me safe upon the theatre of this world? Did my mother suckle me at her swelling breasts, dandle me in her arms, talk to me with an excess of fondness, and clasp me with an affectionate grip? Did she every day wash me in pure water, wrap me in fine linen, give me a thousand kisses, and call me her sweet child? Fond, foolish woman,—never once thought that she was nursing a serpent to the state! I wish she had cast me into some horse-pond! The horrors of guilt begin to work my ruin! My heart beats; it throbs within me, as if I were posting to Styx!

Still,

Still, however, my guilt admits of some extenuation. I was bred up in all the softness of an effeminate luxurious court. My vanity was cherished by the excessive praises of all who came near me. I was not taught to obey before I came to command; but made to believe that my will was a law to the world. A strong propensity to idleness and pleasure unfitted me for the study of the duties belonging to the regal office. I neglected even the reading of history, where, from the example of others, I might have improved my understanding at a much cheaper rate than the exorbitant price of this my fatal experience.—Alas! I have all along indulged in the pleasures of the beast, and not of the man! My pretended friends, so far from checking, expressed an admiration of my whole conduct, however brutal! Wretches! they taught me to consider court pageantry, regal pomp and splendour, as the only marks of true and solid greatness.

Durus.

Durus. Come, come, Omiah; I am to have charge of you;—we shall have more leisure to hear you at another time;—the ship is ready:—Mean time, let me ask you one question, Have you ever lain with my wife?

Omiah. No, no, never:—We have always had separate beds; but in the same chamber. You must know, mun, I am a wore out rake.

Machoniah. I have a good mind to travel with your Majesty in quality of physician, provided you can spare me a pension.

Tuck. Nay, for one hundred oriads a year, I'll attend your Majesty myself, and teach you the harmony of the heavenly bodies.

Omiah. What, gentlemen—let me see—
I am to have, it seems, ten thousand oriads
for

for myself:—Yes, yes, there is enough for us all ;—you shall both attend me.

Tinckle. Have done speaking, d'y'see.—Come, on with his cloths. Has your Majesty got no breeches?

Tuck. Won't this do as well?

Liza. That's my pettycoat.

Omiab. Harkee, Tuck,—Pray what ship do we sail in?

Tuck. The Daphne.

Omiab. Commanded by whom?

Tuck. One Captain Dreadnought.

Omiab. Lying where?

Tuck. At the Turtle back-door.

Omiab. Well, it is matter of great consolation, that, in my banishment, I am to be so well attended. Pray, will Durus take good care of me ?

Tinckle. Come, come, all hands to the Turtle.

CHAP.

C H A P. LIH.

NOTHING very material happened in our way to the Turtle Inn, where we found every thing in readiness for our departure ; which being favoured with both wind and tide, we got clear of the river Lae, in about two hours.

In a little time, seeing nothing on all sides but the roaring sea, we sat down in our cabin, and began to talk of things past, present, and to come. I seated myself by Liza, and demanded a detail of her adventures since our parting at Teneriff.

She was going on with her history, when suddenly recollecting, that in our late hurry I had neglected to fetch on board my American wife, and had left her
unprovided

uprovided for, I was in a moment overwhelmed with a sadness which sunk me down into the deepest melancholy !

For some time past Liza had ingrossed my whole attention. Now, I feel an equal solicitude for the recovery of another object equally dear to me. Such is the life of man ! when we arrive at our ends, and obtain our wishes, immediately they seem farther from us than ever ! Liza's penetrating eyes saw in a moment the cloud which invaded my features. She questioned me with some emotion, what could thus in an instant strike such a damp upon my spirits ! Unable to make any answer I withdrew with a dejected countenance to the deck.

Here I revolved in my mind a thousand thoughts, which served only to heighten my grief ! I figured to myself the evening scene wherein I first beheld Angeliza. All nature seemed to gaze and smile at our
happy

happy meeting ! I recalled to my mind the happy days we had enjoyed,—we used to take our walks by running streams and warbling brooks, into which she would sometimes plunge with such address, as to seize the gliding fish with her hands ! nor did I forget our late heavenly flight.

Whilst I thus walked upon deck, and brought Angeliza and all her fine qualities in review before me, my childish forgetfulness tortured me ! and it gave additional strength to my affliction, to see the outrageous winds wafting me every moment farther and farther from her.

I was in this miserable plight when Liza mounts the deck, and tried to console me ; she was yet speaking, when Captain Dreadnought breaks forth in the sea tone : Why the wind is getting all a-head,—come put about ship, and steer back towards the Lae.

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The sweet notes of a well tuned, well played instrument, could not have conveyed to my ear half the harmony contained in these last words, Steer back towards the Lae. Like a few cordial drops prepared by an able chemist, which directly enters into conflict with the offending matter, and drives out the patient's disease, so did this remarkable interposition of the winds operate in my troubled soul. My brain, touched with the agreeable sensation, diffused in an instant through all my nerves that happy tone, which promoted to such a degree the exhilaration of my spirits, that it was with some difficulty I restrained myself within the bounds of moderation and sobriety.

C H A P.

C H A P. LIV.

AT this time, the wind began to blow strong and fresh ; and the waves began to swell like little hills,—great doings were going on,—some on the rigging, others on deck, all pressing on different objects to obtain the same ends, crying and bawling, trampling and thundering !

Mean while, Omiah, and such in the cabin as were unacquainted with sea affairs, looked upon those above as nearly mad, and began to think their lives in great danger. Says Omiah, I wish again that I had never been born,—to be thus tossed and jolted, squeezed and jumbled,—I think my very guts shall come to my mouth ! I am as sick as a man in a fever,—why I can neither sit nor stand,—lie nor crawl,

crawl,—and I am sure I have not done something else these five days. I wish that man with his bubble and squeak had been at the devil,—we had a mess of it on Sunday night, and now, even now, I decant it in gallons. Mercy on me, my very bowels are coming up! I protest my liver and gizzard, and all my precious entrails, will come out at my mouth! O for a little mutton broth, or some cordial tincture to settle the perturbation of my poor stomach! O woe's me, for there is really no end of matter in me. Then certainly I must be a man of parts,—suppose I lay me down a little,—that won't do neither,—for then I should be tossed in a blanket. The empty coxcomb, fool, blockhead, to go and say that I was not a man of parts and humours. But really we have nothing but impertinence in this age. O had I but lived in the days of my forefathers! my gutcher Pruten was a happy man,—he lived many heavenly days and nights with my grandmammy Hamae. Rampalion, my
father

father Rampalion, was the first fruit of their early embraces. No pains were spared to cultivate the sproutings of his genius as they began to bud. His excellent education made him an ornament to the Kalish throne, which he adorned with every good quality, religious, moral, and political. He took my mother Proserpina into his arms, while she was yet in the bloom of youth, —and O what gladness of heart, and infinite joy did my birth afford them ! Proserpina was yet suckling me at her milky breast, when Rampalion sitting just by, enraptured at the sight, cries out : This sweet lovely child will one day grow up to fill my throne, and wear my crown, when I am mouldered in the earth, and given to the worms ! Then will he be acting the part of father of his people,—for why, I'll take care in due time to fill his mind with such princely virtues, as will ensure the greatness of his future actions.

X x

Thus

Thus did my father Rampalion talk to himself, for so my mother informed me. But how short sighted are kings as well as other mortals! Notwithstanding all my father's care, I was crushed, I may say, in the very bud. Although I say it, what a promising plant to be thus choaked with weeds and dirt, for want of due attention in the days of youth! Bad company resorted to me, and through my father's indulgence, his universal benevolence, and unsuspicious heart, they were permitted to attend, to play,—and they failed not to initiate me in the sensual courses, and carried me to a thousand extravagancies. I was beset with the scum of the earth; my teachers tried in vain to instruct me,—my heart was otherwise engaged; sensuality had taken possession of me. My mind could not fettle in the paths of erudition, but ran incessantly in the wild career of folly, till I was quite jaded, yet never altered my plan. If I rested for a time, it was only to resume the pursuit with fresh vigour.

vigour. Sometimes, in my cooler moments, I looked back with regret upon the precious years of youth lost in debauchery. Nevertheless, next opportunity rekindled the ferment. Like the midnight fly, I kept continually flying to objects that were in process of time to burn my wings.

When I felt my powers impaired,—my strength greatly decayed,—and my body subjected to divers diseases, I began to think more seriously of my conduct. But, alas! the hurry and bustle of the court carried away my attention; insomuch that I never looked sufficiently home to myself, till now that I have lost my kingdom,—an event from which I hope to draw greater advantages, than if I had conquered many great empires. Now, you all see me as I am, old in constitution, but young in years,—such is my story,—it may serve as a lesson of instruction, not to youths only, but to parents, teachers, and guardians, who can never be too careful in keeping
their

their children and pupils from the dangers attending bad company. I feel myself faintish after so much speaking,—do, pray, Liza, fetch me some cordial,—or rather, come, be so kind as help me to bed.

Aye, aye, says Liza, do you there my lad, pointing to a failor, help the King to his bed, while I go and look a little into something that more nearly concerns me.

CHAP.

C H A P. LV.

WHEN Omiah had done speaking, I went directly to bed to take some repose. I was but just laid down, when Liza comes up to me seemingly very much disconcerted. I was in the finest trim for a nap, but she quickly banished sleep from my drowsy eyes. She questioned me with great emotion, as to the cause of my late agitation,—whence came it, cried she, that from sprawling on the deck in an excess of grief, you suddenly, upon the change of the wind, betrayed every mark of immoderate joy ! Some fair one in Suza, whom you love more than your Liza, engrosses all your attention.

She kept scolding me, till Omiah came up to us almost naked, complaining bitterly

ly that he was very grossly affronted. O, says he, addressing himself to Liza, any greasy tar pitch boy in the Daphne may undress me and put me to bed,—you must attend your husband forsooth, eh?

At that moment Captain Dreadnought came down stairs, and welcomed us once more to the Kalish coast. Hereupon, says Omiah, Well, shan't I once more return to my palace, and hold the reigns over the necks of the Kalish people?

I gave him to understand that he would be chained to the spot if he attempted to leave the ship. I called upon Machoniah and Tuck, and having imparted to them my design of going up to Susa, upon a little business I had omitted, I begged of them to take charge of the King till I returned, to which Machoniah very readily consented—but Tuck never spoke a word; nor had he opened his lips in any body's hearing, since we embarked, but seemed quite

quite lost in thought. Therefore, tipping him gently under the chin, he cried out with great vehemence, O, what a stab to science ! I have been bathering my brains since we embarked, to find out the longitude, by bringing the heavenly bodies to my aid—I had brought the whole affair to bear—but unhappily, chucking me thus—you have wretchedly overthrown the whole discovery !

Here I interrupted him, and asked once more, if, along with Machoniah, he would take charge of the King till my return from Susa ? He answered, Yes, Yes—the King shall be our charge—and now, says he, as a mark of my readiness to oblige you, I will this moment set about fetching my philosophy, from the heavens, down to this here cabbin, in imitation of the Prince of moral philosophy, who shall henceforth be my pattern and example.

Tuck

Tuck was now like a piece of water suddenly thawed after an extreme hard frost—words flowed from his lips like a torrent.

Having settled every thing in the best manner on board the Daphne, Liza stepped in with me into the long boat, in which we were wafted up to Susa, a little after sun-set.

C H A P.

C H A P. LVI.

THE streets were already finely illuminated with the shops and lamps. We went straight to the house where I left Angeliza, but did not find her there. Gogle the landlord told me that she had left his house the day before; but where, or in what manner, she was now lodged, he could not inform me. I need say nothing of the extreme trouble this account gave me, which was still heightened from Liza's growing jealousy.

Having provided ourselves with furnished lodgings in Gogle's, I took him aside to sound him more particularly with respect to Angeliza.

Y y

He

He whispered into my ear thus : Why you must understand that Angeliza was exceedingly disconsolate.—I cannot really say what was the matter—howsoever a gentleman of some note, Nodle by name—truly a gentleman of great goodness of heart, I must say—this same Nodle, d'ye see, hearing that there was in my house a Lady in distress, did, from a principle of compassion—having besides, I believe, a kind of penchan for Angeliza.—I know not, indeed, how it was—Nay she's a vestal for what I know—but as I meant only to give some hints——

At these words I withdrew a few moments to give way to some bitter reflections ! My visage losing, in an instant, its natural bloom, appeared pale and cadaverous, wild and haggard ! I was almost determined to hear no more of Gogle's story, dreading extremely the end of it. But, recovering myself a little, he, at my desire, resumed it thus : And so, says he, as matters

ters turned out, she is gone from this here house—in short, Sir, I suspect she is now kept somewhere in lodgings by this same Nodle.

This information came like a dart into my heart ! Wishing to conceal, as much as possible, my present uneasiness, I begged of Liza to keep the house till I made a step as far as Crackling Street, on a little business. O, says she, I wish to see the town as much as you do.

When I told her that she had seen the town long ere now, and that going out under night would expose her to the cold, she very plainly replied, that all the time she had been in Susa she was kept as close as a bird in a cage. I paused a little at this, considering myself the slave of two kept mistresses.

Liza walked with me into the different streets, which were finely adorned with the
shops

shops and lights on all sides. As we went along, we observed some millinery cabins, in which the assemblage of young girls at their needle, with the great variety of fine things, formed an exhibition, wherein nature and art seemed to conspire to strike the people as they passed.

Liza discovering a wish to have some new dresses, we walked in to price the goods. She was very keenly engaged in a bargain, when, turning a little aside, who did I see in the circle of female workers? I was not very sure if I should trust my eyes—but, when I perceived in Angeliza's countenance the same kind of surprise which agitated my own soul, I no longer entertained a doubt. Indeed, with respect to her dress, she was wholly altered, and, had not the passions peculiar to her present situation betrayed her, I might have remained longer in suspense.

An

An encounter so little expected caused a working in our breasts, which no pen can properly describe. I stood for some time speechless, wrapt in deep admiration of the scene !

As for Angeliza, she began to discover some strong marks of resentment of my infidelity. Laying her face in her hands, supported by the table, she seemed to be lost in thought, and deep concern. I hardly thought it adviseable to make directly up to her, until she had time to recollect herself.

Just as I was passing the door, making as if I was going to leave her, and at the same time casting back a keen glance, she that moment raised her head, and fixed her eyes hard upon mine. This was, as it were, the signal to advance. I went directly up to her, without, however, shewing any of that extasy which would have
been

been natural enough, yet ill-timed, in Liza's presence.

Angeliza readily consented to accompany us back to Gogle's—so taking leave of her new mistress, we walked out into the street.

I was now supported by my two wives, who took each a side of me, but not a word was spoke. Upon getting to our apartment, I shut the door—when, after a minute's silence, says Angeliza—Well, what have I done to deserve such treatment!

Very well, cried Liza, Who, think you, has received the worst treatment?

Here I interposed, and questioned Angeliza, How she had been employed since I left her.

She

She answered thus : I lived in this house till yesterday, when I went home to the shop where you found me, there to work for my subsistence. My reason for this resolution was chiefly to shun the importunity of a certain gentleman, one Nodle, who falling in love with my face, offered me a thousand fine things, would I only consent to live with him at bed and board. But, pressing as my wants were, I rejected his offers, never doubting but that you would cast up again, and take charge of your own—

At this Liza cried out, What ! are you married then to my husband ?

Here again I thought fit to interpose, and thus addressed my two wives : O Angeliza, it was in your company that I found a safe retreat against the hardships of fatigue, solitude, and want, to which I was exposed in the wilds of South America !

O

O Liza, if you love me, be the sincere friend of her who consoled and supported me in my distress.—My dear wives, now that we are met together, if we be united in our hearts, and love God and one another, abstaining from evil, God will bless us with peace and plenty in this world, and endless felicity in the world to come.

We continued to moralize and console each other, until the night was far spent, and our eyes became drowsy—then we betook ourselves to rest.

C H A P.

C H A P. LVII.

NEXT day, catching hold of Gogle, I accosted him thus : Come Gogle, let us have a little talk—have you got no news, eh ? O Sir, says Gogle, we have got more news within these few days past than other nations can boast of in as many centuries—you know we have got a new king in the room of Omiah—Many, and some even of the better sort, wished for Tinckle—but then the people, of their own accord, grasped hold of Goblet, the only remaining twig of the royal stock—this same Goblet is said to be grandson of Pruten, by a concubine—Be that as it will, he is a very tyrant—Omiah was sometimes tolerable ; but Goblet is an outrageous monster.—It was but the day before yesterday that he ordered, by his sole

command, without trial, or even the appearance of law or justice—I say he caused your friend Tinckle, and ten of the best men of the land, to be dragged to execution.

Here I interrupted Gogle, and asked him if he knew any thing farther with respect to Nodle?

O, says he, that is very true—I have got something that more nearly regards yourself—but, in my conscience, I believe I must not tell a secret—

Yes, yes, out with it—you have set me on the rack—you have gone too far to retract—come, go on with your story.

Why then, says Gogle, I believe I told you that this here Nodle had taken a fancy for Angeliza.—Would you believe it, Sir, he has been here with me this very morning, concerting his plans—he is so
cast

cast down at the haughty disdain, as he calls it, with which Angeliza rejected all his fine offers, that he has been forming fresh schemes, and trying to draw me into his views—In short, Sir, nothing will please him but the entire possession of Angeliza's person. For this end, he has been offering me a large sum of money, provided I do nothing to oppose him in a midnight attempt upon her bed-chamber. He has informed himself as to her present situation, and knows that there is a gentleman and lady in the same apartment with her. Let me whisper, Sir, into your ear : This same Nodle is worth at least ten thousand oriads annually, good Kalish money—take care, I say—improve his weakness to your advantage.

When Gogle had advanced this much, I asked him, If this same Nodle had as yet fixed upon a night for his enterprize ?

O,

O, says he, this very night—bless you, Sir, I have already got the bribe in my pocket, and mean to betray the poor fool—Harkee, Sir, I have already bespoken about twenty armed men to be posted in my low parlour.—Now, the moment that Nodde appears, I mean to seize his person, as a midnight plunderer.—Be you, Sir, upon your guard, for he brings his whole retinue to carry off your Angeliza.—As for the armed men I mentioned, they are all my own kinsfolks, men of tried honour, and strictest integrity: One of them, indeed, is the minister of a neighbouring parish.

After thanking Gogle, in the kindest manner, for making so full a discovery, I withdrew to my wives, in order to weigh a little the information I had just received, whilst it was yet fresh in my mind.

Had the whole plot been wedged and strongly fixed in Gogle's breast, it could
not

not have been more difficult to bring it out. It seems, too, that I took him by surprise—for, as he began to throw up the matter bit after bit, like one that sees himself unawares in the snare, he suddenly gives a new face to the plot, by coming over to my side, and abandoning that of his constituent. Besides, if there was such a project in agitation, why did he not give me immediate notice of it, if he really meant to be my friend? On the contrary, he said a vast deal about the new King Goblet, and perhaps would have said nothing about Nodde, had not I screwed it out of him.

Whilst, with a countenance rather grave, I was thus investigating the matter, my wives, who were all attention, came up to me, and demanded the cause of all this profound study?

When I communicated to them Gogle's information, they were so deeply affected
with

with it, that they very earnestly besought me to change our lodgings immediately. However, I found means to suppress their fears, by assuring them, that, in whatever house we lodged, we were under the protection of the laws, which, in Kalikang, were remarkably severe against house-breakers.

Mean time, as a wise precaution, I went to Fabius, the Captain of the city guards, and acquainted him with this yet dark affair. Fabius was a native of Masakang, and had come over with me in the same ship from Sega to Sufa, which produced a friendship, that, in the sequel, yielded considerable advantages. Fabius, on his part, engaged to send a party of soldiers, on a minute's warning, at any hour of the night.

I might have avoided the danger of this midnight attack, by sailing down, with my wives, to the Daphne;—but King Goblet, from being the people's favourite, was already,

ready, on account of his excessive cruelty, rather more detested than Omiah himself. In behalf of the latter, a very powerful party was formed;—private councils were held, the issue of whose deliberations I was advised to wait.

Having employed a trusty spy to carry the most early notice of Nodle's motions to the guard, I returned to my lodgings to make the necessary arrangements within doors. I exhorted my wives to maintain a perfect tranquility in their looks, and, like heroines, betray no kind of fear. After spending the evening agreeably, and having taken every step I thought proper for Nodle's reception, I bid them lie down a-bed as usual, only not to put off their clothes.

It might be about the twelfth hour, when I thought fit to ask of Gogle a sight of the armed men in the parlour. They were, indeed, stout looking men, armed only with
knives,

knives, of which each had one in his pocket.

This served to confirm me in the belief of a plot. But, when I found that there was only six men, instead of the twenty Goble spoke of, I concluded that they were brought thither for my own destruction, and not to oppose the midnight invaders; nor was I mistaken in my conjecture, as we shall see presently.

C H A P.

C H A P. LVIII.

HAVING bolted the door, I lay down to dose a little. It was about two in the morning, when a knocking at my room-door awaked me. I got up, and having placed my wives in a little ante-chamber, where there was a candle burning, I came and asked, with an audible voice, Who is there ?

From without, A friend.

Durus. Your name, if you please ?

From without, My name is Nodle.

Durus. Pray, Mr Nodle, what would you be pleased to have ?

3 A

Nodle.

Nodle. I understand that you have got two wives there; and, as one may serve you, I'd have you freely and frankly give up to me the one you call Angeliza, and so put us to no further trouble.

Durus. What! are you to use force, if you can't have her by fair means?

Nodle. I am;—but will be extremely civil and polite, so be you open your door, and give a body a sight of your family.

Durus. How shall I be assured that you come unarmed, and without ruffians to murder us?

Nodle. Upon the honour of a gemman, I'll enter your apartment singly, without arms, and not a soul shall follow me, or may I be doomed to a state of eternal burning in hell flames!

Upon

Upon this I gave him a polite reception ; and, having reſhut the door, led him directly to the little ante-chamber, where, in a moment, he ſeemed tranſported to ſuch a degree, as, by his geſture, denoted a man actuated by the impulse of love ;—and this occaſioned my queſtioning him as to the object of his affections.

Forgive me, ſays Nodde, my dear Sir, every man has got his own weak ſide :—Now, if I love Angeliza there, where is the harm ? You ſhall have a piece of money for her.—You have only to make your demand in a fair way.—Here, ſee you, d’y’ ſee, here is the gold, and there is the goods, —and who, I wonder, you or I, is to have the beſt bargain ?—And then, again, lookee, if you won’t part with her for a reaſonable ſum, I’ll take her by force.—Think wiſely,—you ſhall have five minutes to conſider rightly of it.

Mean

Mean time, whilst Angeliza was discovering, in her countenance, how much she was shocked at the rudeness of this visit,—a dead paleness, something dreary and sad, invaded Nodle's features, which made him more an object of my pity than hatred.

The sudden appearance of the city guards gave hardly any addition to his distress. He was immediately carried prisoner to the guard-house, bewailing all the way his hard fate, in that he could not, even with money itself, purchase peace to his disturbed mind.

At his departure, I obtained two of the soldiers to guard my room door during the remainder of the night.

C H A P.

C H A P. LIX.

I WAS once more in a dosing posture, upon my bed, when a confused noise of tongues in Gogle's parlour roused all my attention. I laid my ear to the door, and heard Gogle talking big, to the following purpose:

Had we succeeded, I was to have got one hundred oriads more of Nodle's best gold.—However, it don't much signify, the main business still remains unexecuted.

That I might the more distinctly hear what was going on, I gently opened the door, and, to my unspeakable surprise, found the two soldiers dead on their posts!

Gogle

Gogle continued thus: What signifies talking—you see it's neck or nothing—my character is blasted and undone.—This here man, Durus, got a vast sum of money when he embarked with our King; and I am pretty certain he brought the whole ashore with him:—You must know it once escaped him in my hearing, that he always trusted his purse where he trusted his person.

Person 1st. Nay, if you come to that, I myself was witness to his fetching ashore, from the Daphne, a chest of gold that took two strong men to carry it from the harbour to this house.

Person 2d. Mean time, gemmen, should not we settle, before all things, how we are to divide the plunder?

Person 3d. Fool! we have not yet got it in our power.

Person

Person 4th. We do but trifle.—We might have rifled ten houses in this time.

Person 5th. Had not we better, gentlemen, put off this serious kind of business to another occasion?

Gogle. Silence, my dear friends,—attend a little to what I am going to advance.—You know a general always harrangues his troops before a battle.—You see, in the first place, we cannot be deeper in the scrape.—Mean time, before we commence hostilities, let us settle a few conditions before hand, to prevent all disputes afterwards.—You must understand, then, all of you, d'y' see, will be at your liberty to go about your respective employments as soon as day.—No body knows any thing of your night's work, however criminal; whilst I and my family will be marked out as the authors and actors of all this murder. I must, therefore, immediately fly with my family to some foreign country, in search
of

of a safe retreat. For this reason, my very dearest friends, you must make no wrangling about the pelf of these here people in my house. I must take it all, or most of it, to myself, to support me and my family abroad. You shall be paid, indeed, for your trouble. You know it is never usual to give above one filbit for killing a cow or an ox. In short, to put a bushel of words in one,—you shall be very handsomely rewarded.—Harkee, you shall have amongst you all their wearing apparel to a rag;—and, over and above, you shall have each of you a bit of money;—eh, won't that do?

Person 1st. Blood! I would not kill the best man of the land for his clous.

Person 2d. Nor I. No, not the first lady of quality, though shining in diamonds.

Person

Person 3d. Nor I, I am sure, down of a hundred pieces at least.

Person 4th. Time is precious.—Let us fall on, or, I vow, I'll go home.

Person 5th. I'm affraid we have got a cup too much.

Person 6th. You all know, gemmen, that I have not opened my mouth to night yet;—but, if I may venture to speak in this venerable meeting, I'd fain know what you are to do with these here people's dead bodies?

Gogle. That's well thought on.—Rat it, gemmen, you confuse me, you bather me so.—Now it comes in my mind, Nodle was to give me my reward, one hundred oriads for Angeliza's body, dead or alive;—so, after letting out her blood, we'll conceal her sweet corpse in some corner for your sakes,

—not for mine.—I must fly the country you know.

Person 1st. Faith, Gogle, I hardly think you know your own mind a minute.

Person 2d. My old wig, you confuse Gogle.

Person 3d. Silence.—Can't you give Gogle time to recollect himself?

Person 4th. Faith, Gogle, I'll go home to my wife.

Person 5th. Faith I'll be King's evidence, and so save my dear and precious life. *Exit.*

Person 6th. Faith I'm too long here. *Exit.*

Gogle. King's evidence, eh! King's evidence! Come, let us seize this rascal before he gets home.

In

In a moment the scene was carried out into the street; all the plotting members running eagerly in pursuit of the man who said he would turn King's evidence.

Hereupon Sally, Gogle's daughter and house-keeper, came up to me, bathed in tears, and begged that I would bolt fast my door, and she would remain with us;—for, she said, the villains would be back in a minute or two. The door being locked, and fast bolted, she continued thus:

You see the fate of the two soldiers! My poor father served up wine to them, mixed with potent poison, which killed them as with a dagger! Now, I fear that father Gogle must fall a victim to public justice;—but remember, O Durus, you are to be a father to me in his stead.—I throw myself at your mercy.—You must not be cruel to a poor innocent maid.—O, what murderous rascals, that could thus deliberately go about to murder you and your lovely
wives!

wives ! O Angeliza ! how much I have shuddered and trembled, sobbed and grieved for you this night !

Here she was interrupted by the return of the conspirators.

Gogle, running through the house like a madman, screamed out, Sall, Sall, Sally—where the devil have you got Sally ? Zoons, child, why don't you speak ! Sall, Sall, Sally.—What, have I lost my girl, my all, and every thing.

Sall could hold no longer. She cried out, I am here, father, in Angeliza's room. You cannot, you must not, enter where I am. So you better go to bed, and set these bloody men to the door.

She had scarce uttered these words, when Gogle, stumbling upon the dead soldiers, fell, and broke his nose on the floor.

His

His companions, at the same time, differing amongst themselves, in consequence of having gagged back the man who said he would turn King's evidence, drew out their knives, and fell a stabbing one another. Gogle, rising from the ground, got an accidental thrust, which killed him on the spot. The survivors of the fray, if any, ran off, and made their escape for the present. The house was once more in a state of tranquility.

CHAP.

C H A P. LX.

I Took this opportunity to lock the outer door, reconnoitre the house, and inspect the dead. Whilst I was thus employed, Sally brings a lighted candle to her father's dead body, over which she fell a mourning with deep and hollow groans!

O says she, why did I forsake my dear father! What! here's my uncle Ram Jam too! O heavens! Who do I see? I perceive there's Parson Bum! Mercy on me, here is likewise my dear brother Gogle!

Now she began to raise great cries, and wept with such an excess of grief, that she alarmed the neighbourhood.

A loud knocking at the street door caused her to run to give access. She fell in the passage, and the candle went out. She made shift, however, to open the door, when in came about a dozen of people of both sexes. One of them stumbling upon a dead corpse, cried out : What have you got here, Sall ?

Sally having relighted the candle, answered, here's my father, my brother, uncle Ram Jam, and Parson Bum of Bumfield,—raising her voice a little higher,—Great God of heaven, here's Benn my nephew too ! all killed, soldiers and all, by this here cruel man Durus !

I had now heard enough to find that my own life was in some danger,—for Sall had got her maid Madge to join with her in strengthening the evidence, however, improbable.

I de-

I desired Sally with some warmth to represent the matter, tragical as it was, without the least partiality. But she acquired such assurance from the presence of her friends, was so loth to charge her father and kinsmen with their own and the soldiers deaths, that she still insisted as before.

I was immediately seized and loaded with irons, and shewn no other favour than to remain in my present quarters with a guard upon me. In this condition I continued till mid-day, when Sall, Madge, Nodle, and myself were carried before a judge to be examined.

Nodle was first made to explain himself. His declaration was very much in my favours,—but to render my acquittal complete, Sall, and Madge, departed entirely from their former testimony, and emitted a true statement of Gogle's diabolical design to possess himself of my money after
killing

killing me and my wives. Their declaration was drawn out to a considerable length, and filled all the spectators with horror! Nodle himself seemed to be greatly affected with it,—never thinking that he was in some measure the cause of all the bloodshed. Sall and Madge laid the whole blame of every thing that happened upon Nodle, who was ordered back to prison, to wait his trial upon some future day. I was instantly set at liberty.

C H A P. LXI.

WHEN my late danger and happy deliverance came to be known in the city, it brought me into notice. The citizens of every description came to congratulate me upon my narrow escape ; and by a thousand civilities endeavoured to efface any bad impressions I might have conceived of the Kalish nation, from the perfidy of my late landlord, and the scandalous attempts of a man of Nodle's rank and fortune.

The last night's adventure became the general topic of conversation. It soon reached King Goblet's ears, who heard it with pleasure, for he delighted in mischief. But he became implacable when he heard how much I was caressed by the citizens.

Popularity

Popularity with him was a crime against the state. The poor fool was so weak as to become jealous of me. He could not rest till I was despatched. Happily for me, he fixed upon Fabius, to whom he sent express orders to kill me.

But this good friend of mine came directly and acquainted me with my danger. At the same time, he declared that he never would execute such orders, although in the present case his own life depended upon it. He chose rather to betray his sovereign, to whom he had hitherto been a friend, than debase himself by becoming the instrument of his cruelty. He therefore, as our only resource, exhorted me to go about as secretly as possible, and rouse the citizens against the tyrant, and he would in a proper time join me with his faithful guards.

This project succeeded ; for having got together a large body of the people, and
previously

previously fired their indignation against tyranny, and being seasonably joined by Fabius, who suddenly appeared at the head of a large party of well armed soldiers, we marched directly towards the palace, where forcing our way into the tyrant's superb apartments, we found him coming sword in hand with a few adherents. The encounter was fierce. Goblet fell dead on the spot. Those that fought for him saved their lives by a timely submission.

C H A P.

C H A P. LXII.

THE royal family was now in a manner extinct, Omiah being entirely set aside, since there was no longer any occasion for him as a rival to Goblet. However, the people had been long accustomed to a monarchial government, and wished to see some good man at the helm.

It was the business of the high senate of the nation to set up another sovereign, or take the government into their own hands. In a case so extraordinary as this, they were greatly influenced by the voice of the people, who declared loudly for Fabius, whom they wished to reward with the sovereignty for his late important service.

Fabius

Fabius was not insensible of the great honour they did him, but begged leave to declare off,—strongly recommending at the same time to their notice, one, who had not only aided in subverting the tyranny, but from great age, experience, and knowledge of the world, was the fittest he knew for the regal office,—a man whose very wives were each of them accomplished enough for a throne.

I was immediately sent for,—and being introduced into the great council of the Kalish nation, was asked to accept of the crown, which I thought fit to decline.

After thanking the senators for their kind offer, I told them, that I thought myself much happier in a private station, than I could hope to be at the head of the Kalish empire: That to fill the throne, and preside over so extensive a kingdom, required

required one better acquainted with their laws and customs, than I could pretend to be,—that they ought to cast their eyes upon some person of merit and distinction in their own country, one well versed in the affairs of government,—of a great and liberal mind,—a man of tried honour, whose bright enduements should equal him to the kingly station,—a man of penetrating eyes to distinguish friends from enemies,—of solid judgment and clear perception in council,—and above all things, a man of great goodness of heart, whose delight and pleasure will be in the people's happiness and prosperity. Such, I told them, was the portrait to be looked for in a prince.

However, the more reluctance I shewed in regard to their offers of the crown, the greater was their zeal in pressing it upon me. At last I suffered myself to yield to their importunity; made due acknowledgments

ledgments for so great an honour,—and promised to do every thing in my power to make the Kalish nation happy and flourishing at home, and formidable to their enemies abroad.

C H A P.

C H A P. LXIII.

ONE of the first uses I made of my sovereign power, was to pardon Nodle, who was under sentence of death for his late outrage.

Nodle was so overjoyed at this mark of my clemency, that he caused sacrifice a hecatomb of the several kinds of animals; made a great feast, inviting to it, in a general way, all the citizens and people within five miles round. It was held in a great park of his own near the city. The tables were diversified into squares, circles, triangles, parallelograms, and various other forms, leaving void spaces between for the servants.

Nodle appointed to each table a president, who were to receive orders from each other in a regular subordination, from the lowest, to Nodle himself, who presided as generalissimo over the whole.

When all the company had done dinner, the signal was given to serve up a bowl of wine to each table. Hereupon Nodle gave the toast, " long live King Durus." This was in a moment repeated by the whole assembly with loud shouts. They gave on this occasion speech and language to a neighbouring mountain, which did not fail to re-echo their words, with all the energy natural to rugged cliffs, and hollow caves, animated in this manner, by the tongues of several thousands of people.

How did this outward shew of loyalty end? The language of the tongue is not always that of the heart. The company were now nearly mad with drink, when Nodle began to sound those that sat near him.

He

He wondered how his fellow citizens could be so mean spirited, as to put on the yoke with their own hands! To be thus led and driven by a foreigner, whilst there was so many men of high renown in their own country, equal to the task! Then he pointed out how glorious it would be, to make and unmake kings at their pleasure,—that, in his opinion, they ought to take advantage of the present juncture, when they were all met in a body, to force their way into the palace, and compel the King to resign. That it were needless to mention how much it would be acceptable to himself to be their king,—he would esteem it above every thing in the world.

The sparks of sedition were in an instant blown by proper agents into a conflagration, through the whole assemblage, who, along with the wine, sucked in greedily all the venom of revolt. Thus was this numerous meeting, from having cried out with a kind of enthusiasm, “ long live
“ King

" King Durus," all agreed to put him to death.

About sun-set, the signal was given to march. Upon which, they all rose in a kind of rapture, each armed with at least a stick or a dagger, and moved towards the palace.

Mean time, Fabius, my first minister, and general of the forces, having been timeously apprised by his friends at the feast of all that was contriving against me, had taken care to prepare for their reception.

The rebels marched at first with all the courage that could be expected from the most intrepid veterans. But, as they came nearer danger, those in the front wanted to return to the rear. They came at last to demand that Nodle himself and his particular friends should form the front. Hitherto, Nodle, like a wise general, had secured his person, by taking post behind his army,—
nor

nor did he at all relish the overture that was made,—the fear of falling, perhaps the very first victim, perplexed him exceedingly.

While Nodle wavered in this manner, many of his people went home,—many of them began to cool,—others more resolute led the way, bidding Nodle follow.

The reception they met with transformed them in a moment from a state of drunkenness, or madness, or both, to a lively sense of self-preservation. They ran so lustily in their flight, that they trode down, and even bruised to death a great many little boys and girls, who had come from all parts to see the fray.

About fifty of the insurgents lay dead or wounded on the spot, and Nodle himself was amongst the slain. It appeared afterwards, that Nodle fell by the hands of his own nephew, who took advantage of the tumult

tumult to make sure of his uncle's great estate, never once minding that it would be forfeited for his rebellion.

Some lay gasping just by the walls of the palace. Laying my ear to their groans, I heard them cursing the feast,—cursing themselves for their shameful compliance for a dinner,—declaring that, if their lives were but spared for the present, they should never again be inveigled to their ruin at a great man's table.

I sent immediate relief to these objects of pity ; and Machoniah, who was now returned from the Daphne, and become my first physician, was so successful, that he recovered ten men who were thought incurable.

At the same time, I published a general pardon, to all who were any ways concerned in the conspiracy, thereby relieving their fears : for I considered the insurrection

tion to be less their fault, than that of the wine and ill counsel working together. I gave them to understand, however, that, upon a second transgression, they would forfeit all right to my clemency.

CHAP.

C H A P. LXIV.

SOON after my acceffion to the throne, a boat from the Daphne brought me the following letter from the late King Omiah :

“ Royal Sire,

“ I wish you much joy of the throne of my ancestors. I beg leave to approach you as my Father and Sovereign, and lay all my complaints before you.

“ You may be very fure that I am tired by this time of always floating upon the water. The extremities of my body, my body itself, with all my organs inward and outward, are in a decayed worn-out kind of ftate. I have not many more days to
live.

live. But, to come to the point: Will your Majesty be graciously pleased to give orders for my return to the city? I shall think myself very happy with such accommodation as your Majesty in your great wisdom, shall see meet. I shall think myself happier, as a private gentleman, under so good a Prince as you are, than if I were sole monarch of the world put together. I confess I never felt half the pleasure upon the throne, that I enjoyed in your good company, even in the midst of the waters. Pray, still be kind to me, and God will bless you, and reward you; for I cannot, as you deserve. However, be assured that I am your sincere friend.—Tuck, the bearer, will be a little more particular as to the proofs of my friendship to you. Wrote and signed on board the Daphne, lying at the mouth of the Lae, this 10th of Decr.

OMIAH."

“ P. S. This will be delivered to you by honest Tuck, who has indeed taken very good care of me.”

Upon reading this letter I felt not a little for Omiah—and the more so, in regard Tuck assured me that he had refused to head, or give his name to, a very powerful party, who offered to restore him to the throne of his ancestors by force of arms.

I immediately despatched Tuck to the Daphne, to fetch Omiah back to the city—caused him to be conducted to his old apartment in the palace—invited him every day to my table—and gave him leave to walk when he pleased in the royal gardens.

Finding that Omiah was perfectly satisfied with his condition, and that the public tranquillity ran no sort of hazard from his
en-

enlargement, I gave him leave to take airings in the country, or visit his friends in the city at his pleasure.

On these occasions, he used to be telling every body how much he esteemed a private life, exempted from cares. Such, he said, was now happily his lot; and he would not exchange situations with the greatest of monarchs. Nay, the change of his circumstances, in a manner, restored his youth—and he used to say, that the plot against his life and crown, terrible as it then appeared, was the very best thing that could have happened to him.

CHAP.

C H A P. LXV.

IT is needless to take notice of the ceremony of my coronation, which was conducted with a splendour unequalled in the Kalish annals. On that occasion, I felt myself agitated with an ambition which grasped at nothing short of universal empire. Dazzled with the glitter of sovereign power, I became the sport of my pride, which deprived me of my wonted repose.

There were few nights in which I did not conquer the two Americas, with all their islands, great and small. But this did not satisfy me ! Nor would the addition of all Asia and Europe, unless Africa was thrown into the list of conquests. And,
even

even then, a thousand other wants still perplexed me. My eyes would sometimes roll on barren rocks, and the beasts and fishes that inhabit the lands and seas about the poles.

Whilst I cherished in my bosom these extravagant projects, my mind was miserably racked ! To cure my phrenzy, I had recourse to the history of past times. Then it was that I said to myself, Ambition is a dark, dreary, dangerous precipice, on which Kings are very apt to stumble headlong, and break their necks !

Amongst others, Alexander the Great cherished it in his heart, not knowing that it was a mortal poison when indulged to excess. It proved fatal, not to his own person only ; its sad effects extended to his mother, his wives, his infant-children, and to every body who had the misfortune to be any ways related to that famous conqueror,

queror, of whose family, in a very little time, no traces could be found.

Pyrrhus, King of Epirus, despising the counsels of his wise minister Cineas, fell at last, after a succession of disastrous wars, in which he gained the reputation of a great General, at the expence of his dominions—after all his bloody battles and actions of military fame, he fell by the hands of an old woman, who let fall on his head a stone or a tile from the top of a house in Argos.

C H A P.

C H A P. LXVI.

WHILST I was musing in this manner, upon the examples of past ages, Fabius came in and told me, that Nodle's estate, consisting chiefly of land, was very improveable ; and it being now a part of the crown-lands, which were much neglected of late, a very considerable profit would arise from a little attention to Agriculture.

This seasonable information carried my attention to new objects, and served not a little to eradicate that wild ambition which had been torturing my brain. It was with the greatest pleasure that I thought of changing the horrors of war for the sweet joys and innocent delights of agriculture. This course led to the wealth and affluence of
my

my people, and to the rearing up of a race of stout vigorous men, fit for military service, upon any emergency.

The better to promote the interests of agriculture, I took a general survey of my dominions. Assuming the appearance of a private traveller, I examined into the abuses that had crept into the land, either by law or custom. I found the peasants in some parts lying under great disadvantages. They had no established market-places for selling their corn. But this was not the worst of it : Some of them were obliged to grind their grain at mills at a great distance, and to which the roads were often impracticable ; whilst there were plenty of mills much nearer them, always ready to serve them much cheaper, and even save the trouble of carriage. The paying of dry multure was a great discouragement to the honest farmer.

I found the country peasants fettered with another hardship, which was the more galling, as it had the sanction of a late act of the legislature. They were obliged to turn out so long every year, with their men and horses, to repair high-ways they never, perhaps, had occasion to travel upon. This made them neglect their improvements at home, and made them careless about the cultivation of a country whose laws they by no means relished. Strange as it may seem, here it was that the poorest family was forced to pay the same quota, in name of road-money, with the richest !

At this time, too, the people were immoderately taxed, to pay the interest of an enormous debt, occasioned by a long, expensive, ill conducted war—a war in which Kalikang was worsted, and obliged to renounce all pretensions to a very large foreign territory of her own peopling. The Kalish people had begun to despair of ever

seeing their condition mended. The yoke lay so heavy upon their necks, that every step they made they seemed to groan !

I found it high time to set about relieving the distressed, and redressing the grievances, of the Kalish nation—and this, in a great measure, I soon effected, by the means the most honourable and satisfactory to all my subjects that could be devised. I even restored the forfeited estates to the right heirs, that the innocent children might not suffer for the guilt of their fathers.

The course I took to suppress immediately some of the most obnoxious taxes was this : I set aside, as a needless piece of grandeur, all these men called Lords of the bed-chamber. This was hardly felt by a set of men already possessed of ample fortunes. I likewise struck off all the lucrative sinecures throughout the kingdom, excepting pensions granted in reward of merit ;

fit; a conduct which made me many thousands of friends for one enemy.

Finding, in one of the largest and most distant provinces of my kingdom, no less than twenty judges with very large salaries, fifteen of whom sat together in one house, I saw, at first sight, the propriety of striking off at least sixteen of their number. My people were often beggared when they went to law; nor could they promise themselves a final discussion of their suit, however clear, in many years. I ordered that henceforth a jury of fifteen citizens, or country-farmers, should decide in civil as well as criminal causes, with the assistance of only one judge, learned in the law.

Most of the discarded judges themselves were glad of this innovation. Their attendance in the court had been a kind of prison to them the half of their time. Now it was that they had full leisure to improve
their

their country estates, where they breathed in a better air, and enjoyed good health.

When the Kalish people came to understand that their new Sovereign did not disdain to go about in person, to hear and redress the abuses that had crept into the state, they were struck with such a sense of gratitude, that they could hardly find words equal to the warmth of their hearts. This came to my knowledge, not in the form of addresses from corporations and provinces, which are never to be taken as the sense of the people at large. In my disguise as a traveller, my heart felt, my eyes beheld, my ears heard, what writing is inadequate to convey, or words to express !

C H A P.

C H A P. LXVII.

IN my progress through my dominions, I saw every where, with extreme concern, the intolerable pride of the clergy, who, by blinding the people under a religious cover, had nearly snatched an absolute power over their minds.

The Kalish people had for their religion the worship of one Deity, whom their priests made visible to their eyes. This God was in truth a man, and always chosen out of the higher order of his priests. But, to persuade the people that he is immortal, the inferior priests, when he dies, substitute another in his stead ; and so continue the cheat from generation to generation. The priests have assured the people that he will continue to live for ever.

This

This God of the Kalish nation is never to be seen, but in a secret place of his palace, amidst a great number of lamps, sitting cross-legged upon a cushion, and adorned all over with gold and precious stones.

The Kalish clergy punish, with great severity, such as do not yield a ready consent to all their assertions, however absurd. They had the address, time out of mind, to wrest from the people the tenths of vegetable as well as animal productions. The land was greatly oppressed by them ! They had introduced too such unheard of forms into the worship of God, that your thinking sort of men were at a stand what to do or say—whilst others, of easy tempers, suffered themselves to be dragged on quietly as they were led.

From a difference of opinion, however, about a century ago, divers sects arose, each contending vehemently that they alone
were

were of the only true religion. Many cruel and bloody battles were fought, neither side knowing what they fought for.

As to the clergy established by law at this present time, they had erected themselves into two houses, the high and the low, and each house was continually buffeting the other. The higher house had long ago the address to incorporate itself with one of the branches of the legislature. When, therefore, I began to think of new modelling the Kalish church, there appeared obstacles nearly insurmountable. Besides, that all mankind are naturally attached to the religion they have been bred in, here the clergy used more and more all kinds of arguments to confirm the people in the faith and belief that the great Priest I have just described is their only true God.

It came to pass, however, that their endeavours, often indeed ill-timed, began to hurt

hurt their cause. Amidst the rays of improved light, that now darted forth on all sides, their religion could not well stand a fair investigation. It was upon scrutinizing a little, that the people perceived their religion to be priestcraft. Nor would they so soon, perhaps, have comprehended this much, had not the priests themselves too officiously cried up, in their pulpits, the goodness of their foundation.

By making this their main topic, the edifice began to crumble away, bit after bit—the builders all the while keeping their attention fixed solely upon the foundation—which, upon the fall of the structure, was seen, by the most vulgar eye, to be nothing more than an imaginary bottom. This made the priests to change their tone,—and, as a last effort to maintain their ground, they came to insist no farther than that the High Priest was only God's representative on earth.

C H A P.

C H A P. LXVIII.

AS it was impossible for me to erect a new fabric of religion without the sanction of the whole legislature, of which I was but a part, and it being my determination to do nothing in an arbitrary manner, like some of my predecessors, especially in matters of such high importance, I was for some time at a loss what course to take in my intended reformation. Every alteration in religion must be with the people's consent. Their consciences cannot, must not, be forced. I apprehended the greatest opposition from the ignorant, from bigots. These are to be tamed by gentle, not by violent measures.

When I first opened my design to the leading men of my court, I found that they had been cherishing ideas similar to my own in religious concerns, without daring publicly to utter them ;—nay, they had often been forced to dissemble, and express a warm zeal for the church, as established by law, whilst, in their hearts, they thought quite otherwise. I applied next to such of the clergy as were most considerable for their influence. These men very frankly owned to me that they had been acting the part of hypocrites, and agreed not to oppose my design, provided I would assign them pensions equal to their present benefices. They even assured me, that all the people were ready to receive, at my hands, whatever alterations in the service of the Most High God I might think fit to introduce.

Every difficulty thus removed, a new church was erected by public authority. It was built upon the most rational plan ; having

ving for its main pillar solid sense, that could not be shaken.

In every parish I settled, with the approbation of his flock, one pastor, with a comfortable stipend, whose duty was to console the afflicted, relieve the distressed, inspect the morals of his people, on Sundays preach a sermon to his congregation, impressing their minds with a lively sense of their duty to God and one another, and assist in singing the praises of God;—for which latter purpose, every parish that chose it might have an organ, or other musical instruments.

Such of the inferior clergy as chose to conform to the new establishment were continued in their places. But the higher order were dismissed as altogether unnecessary. It is true I gave them military commissions, that they might now defend whom they formerly fleeced.

My

My people were great gainers by this revolution in the church. After paying the minister's stipends upon the new establishment, the remainder of the tithes, which amounted to an enormously large sum, fell to be a part of the revenue. This enabled me to strike off very oppressive taxes. But, as tithes were vexatious, and a kind of plague to the landed gentry, I put it in their power to purchase them at easy prices;—a measure that was readily adopted, and was productive to my treasury of vast sums of money.

It was much wondered by some how the world could stand after the downfall of these grave pillars of the ancient church! But, how agreeably were they surprised, to find that these men had only clogged the wheels of government?

Formerly, what strife and division in the land! Now, what union and prosperity
in

in the public, as well as in every one's private concerns !

It would have done one's heart good to see how overjoyed the people were in all places throughout my kingdom, at being thus suddenly freed of some grievous taxes that had long hung about their necks like a millstone. There seemed to be an universal joy diffused through all ranks of men. The gentry were transported at getting rid of the tithes. The great body of the people seemed just fitted for action, after being long held down, and almost powerless, by some dead weight.

Besides striking off obnoxious taxes, I was now in a condition to double the pay of my common soldiers, who had scarce enough to buy their daily food, whilst the superior rank of priests had a great deal too much. Too much ! Why, in their equipage and way of living they vied with
Kings,

Kings, Princes, and the great ones of the earth.

It was not my intention, with the downfall of the old church, to sink in oblivion the worship of God. My design was to settle it upon a more creditable plan, and, if possible, free mankind of their chains; deliver them from the imputation of believing in wonders like little children; open their eyes to absurdities; and, after melting down all the religions upon the face of the earth of any reputation, separate the dross from the fine particles, taking out of the latter the materials of my new building, into which the human race may enter with safety, without fearing any more the danger of being crushed in the ruins.

CHAP.

C H A P. LXIX.

IN my frequent interviews with the famous Mary, with whom I lived about forty years in an unknown island, she discoursed so learnedly upon the different religions; pointed out, with such strength of argument, their excellencies and defects; in a word, she treated, so fully and judiciously, this noblest of all subjects, that she in a manner imprinted upon my very heart all its most essential parts.

It was her firm belief, that she was cast in my way by a superior hand, to be the means of diffusing a light that was one day to blaze forth and dispel the mist which had so long blinded the world, and hindered their discerning truths the most evident.

I am still in raptures when I call to mind the sweetness of her voice, the brightness of her understanding, the vivacity of her wit, her elegant figure, and rare accomplishments.

In our solitude our time did not seem heavy upon our hands. We wandered along the flowery meads. We sometimes took our walk by the side of a warbling brook. Other times, we winded along the sides of mountains;—stopt to admire some beautiful cascades rolling impetuously over precipices! Here we were enchanted with the music of the feathered creation, to which the noise of the water formed a kind of chorus! Here we were bountifully supplied with filberds and other fruits the most delicious.

In these delightful scenes did we philosophise at our ease, uninterrupted with law suits or the gnawing cares of the world. When we wished to escape the sun's darting

ing

ing rays, we seated ourselves under some cool and shady foliage gently agitated with the refreshing zephyrs. Here did we ruminate upon our past experience and knowledge of the world. Here it was that the loveliest of women assured me, that she was destined to inform mankind in what most essentially concerns their present and future interests. Nor do I claim any other merit than that of holding her valuable doctrine in deposit until the present opportunity of publishing it to the Kalish nation.

Before I conclude this chapter, I must acquaint the world, that, until my arrival at the throne of Kalikang, I never had time to think of Mary's prediction. Upon this extraordinary change in my fortune, I felt myself stimulated to the accomplishment of it, as it were by inspiration itself.

C H A P. LXX.

IT may be said, that we ought not to believe in God, because we never see him. It is true, he is above our finite conceptions, because he is infinite. He is present every where. All nature speaks of him. He has drawn himself in his works, in which he is sufficiently visible.

If we wish to see our Glorious Maker face to face, we have only to live good and happy lives in this world ; for this world is a kind of school, wherein mankind are tried and prepared beforehand for entering into the presence and constant enjoyment of their heavenly Creator, in whose company there will be endless and uninterrupted felicity.

Now,

Now the most powerful of all inducements to engage us to prepare for this heavenly abode, is, our duty and interest are linked together.

There is no hardship laid upon us ; for, in preparing ourselves for the enjoyment of heaven, we only act a part the most conducive to our interest in this world, either with respect to our health or estates. Our reward is present for all the restraints we may now lay upon our wicked passions and violent inclinations ; nor is it confined to this perishing life, but extends to futurity, to eternity itself.

Who would not delight in the exercise of piety,—in the practice of a good and virtuous life, since it is attended with the most solid and lasting of all pleasures? Who would not spend whole days and nights in secretly admiring in his heart the wisdom of God, his omnipotent power, his great goodness to his creatures? for he delights
not

not in their misery, but lets their own folly punish them.

Do not the very insects praise their infinite Maker? The fishes that glide in the water praise him; the four-footed beasts praise him; the birds praise him; trees, shrubs, grass, herbage, and growing corns praise him; the very entrails of the earth, the earth itself, and all it contains praise him; the wide ocean, seas, lakes, and rivers praise him; so does, in a word, the whole universe, compared to which this earth is but a small mite!

But, O man! it is the distinguishing mark of thy pre-eminence that you have got a heart to praise and adore the great and bountiful Creator, of whose handywork you are the masterpiece.

Yet, where is there a more fickle, capricious, miserable creature? It is a debt we owe to our superior understanding, that
we

we are often wretcheder than the beasts. An exquisite sense of an injury or affront racks us with vexation. In such cases, there is no remedy equal to that which is derived from a meek and humble spirit, which must be carefully improved, if we would wish to free ourselves of numberless crosses. It will have a very happy effect upon our minds, if we take every cross incident as intended for our good. This will be gaining a real advantage from the worst of troubles that can befall us. It will by degrees settle in us that gravity and coolness which seldom fail to gain the esteem of the world ; but, above all things, it will tend greatly to promote our own health and happiness.

But, if we give way to passion, and suffer ourselves to be thrown into a ferment upon every trifle, we go a great way to make ourselves very contemptible, and to destroy what is very valuable to us, our health. The people of meek and humble
 hearts,

hearts, such as are readier to forgive than to resent wrongs, are the most acceptable in the sight of God; who, on the other hand, does often let fall the haughty and the proud, the miserable victims to their own pride and malice. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

CHAP.

C H A P. LXXI.

RELIGION has in all ages and in every nation been continually fluctuating and changing its form. It has been the occasion of divisions, wars, bloodshed, murder, and sometimes total desolation to whole provinces and kingdoms. That horrible monster, theological rage, has disgraced and brought to shame the legislature of almost every people at some period or other.

We cannot without horror look into the history of past times, and see the havock occasioned by this wild beast! A certain man, whose name was Storkmer, had the epithet of Champion of his religion bestowed upon him. This famous prelate, whilst in the exercise of power, caused a poor woman to be burnt on account of her religion ;

gion ; but, when he lost that power over others, he was himself led to the stake and burnt. It were endless to take notice of all those who have fallen victims to this merciless tyger, theological rage.

Therefore, O ye powers of this world, never again cherish him in your bosoms, or he will eat out your bowels, prey upon you, and consume you : Look into the history of your predecessors, and see how some of them caused persecute and butcher their own subjects. Did they talk of their political interest as the cause of all this havoc ? But I can tell you that no wise policy ever inculcates such barbarous principles. What ! would it be good policy to go and devour the very people from whose labour and industry you derive your state and grandeur ?

C H A P.

C H A P. LXXII.

IT is now high time to open the eyes of bigots, cure the blind fanatic, and let mankind see their religious prejudices and weaknesſes. Come, let me introduce you into thoſe meads of peace and quietneſs, where all the world may ſafely enter in, and live good and happy lives.

In a good life is comprehended, honeſty, ſobriety, temperance, chaſtity, meekneſs, and purity of heart. If theſe noble virtues abide in us, they will bring health to our bodies and peace to our minds in this world, and endleſs felicity in that which is to come.

Let me lead you a little farther into the delightful field, and ſhow you ſome of its

greatest beauties on the one side, with certain blemishes and deformities on the other.

Cast your eyes on truth and honesty; consider them well; they will gain you credit and confidence, and shed a bright lustre on all your actions. But their contraries, falsehood and fraud, will expose you to contempt, blast your character, and then your interest sinks.

Do no injustice; for poverty is better than riches ill-got; but wealth derived from fair trade is commendable.

Do no injury to thy neighbour, in his goods, his person, his reputation, his wife, his daughters, or to any thing that is his.

Crush the first beginnings of avarice, or they will gradually grow up to your ruin, even in your temporal affairs.

Take

Take care to curb vice of every kind in the bud ; for vices beget one another, and in the end draw more victims into their pale than war itself. What havock is made by excessive drinking, gluttony, and debauchery ! but lay into the other scale, sobriety and temperance, and you will see the bloom of health and long life.

Never forget that an industrious and active life, a steady application to the study of science and the liberal arts, do wonderfully promote the cultivation of our minds and bodies. If, then, we would contribute to so noble an improvement, let us shun idleness, and betake ourselves to some creditable employment. How beautiful to improve the work of God in our own persons ! but, alas ! how many debase themselves beneath the brutes by their detestible lusts !

If we would be happy in heaven with our blessed Maker, let us first make ourselves

selves happy in this world, in a pure and blameless life ; for this alone will make us heirs of that blessed abode, where we shall enjoy eternal and uninterrupted felicity. On the contrary, those who are discontented and fretful, peevish and passionate, riotous and quarrelsome, cruel and barbarous, have in a manner already kindled up the flames of hell in their own minds ; and, if they die without repentance and amendment of their lives, these flames will still continue to blaze and torture them throughout all the dark, and to them dreary and painful, ages of eternity.

If we would preserve the ease and composure of our minds, the sweetest enjoyment we can arrive at, let us take care to avoid as much as possible, all cause of giving or receiving affronts ; for anger, which is the consequence, sometimes produces murder ; and this brings horror and anguish upon the murderer, should he even escape a gibbet.

As

As we ourselves expect mercy and forgiveness of our sins, at the hands of our merciful Creator, so ought we to shew mercy and a forgiving temper towards one another. God has impressed our hearts with a spirit of sympathy, which we ought to improve more and more, to the aiding and assisting of each other, under the burden of life. This sympathising soul within us is of divine origin; and the more we improve it, provided we do no material prejudice to our own families, so much the nearer do we approach the divinity.

Our own families, and those of our own house, ought to be the first objects of our attention in the distribution of pecuniary assistance. But in the disposal of places and offices of consequence, merit wherever it can be found ought to be the object.

It is bad for us to harbour in our breasts a spirit of resentment and revenge, for we only make ourselves miserable by it.

It

It is good for us to fix humility in our hearts, in opposition to pride, for what are we when we examine ourselves?

However great we may be in this world, let it always be remembered, that there will be no other mark of distinction in the next, but what a good and virtuous life confers.

Let it every day be our constant care, to spend so much of our time as can be spared from business in prayer to God. A little time seriously employed this way, will have the same acceptance with God, as the longer devotions of those who have more opportunities for this pious duty. And we should at all times, even in the midst of labour and study, give up our hearts to our blessed Maker, never doing, nor saying, nor thinking any thing that may be offensive to so good and gracious, merciful and bountiful Creator.

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The keeping of our minds always less or more in this religious attention, will wonderfully contribute to suppress and keep under those dangerous vices and passions, anger, lust, jealousy, envy, pride, avarice, and vanity; for if we do not fairly get above them, they will be frequently mastering us,—and as they are the vile enemies of our quiet and repose, we should by all means court the divine aid, which can alone support us against the violent attacks of these our very worst of enemies.

Although it be highly our duty to live in freindship and harmony with one another, yet we ought to be cautious in forming friendships with designing men, who commonly fix their aim upon the simple and such as are unpractised in worldly arts. How many are led astray by vicious companions, and thereby perhaps ruined for life in their health, their estates, and reputation !

That

That kind of freindship and connection
which is formed by the bond of marriage,
is the most amiable of all.

Let every man have but one wife, and
if they be not true and faithful to each
other, the person injured may sue for a
divorce, and be entitled to marry another.

C H A P.

C H A P. LXXIII.

THERE is one Almighty Creator of the universe, who is alone entitled to our praise and thanksgiving ;—who has brought about all the great revolutions we have seen in states, monarchies, and private families ;—who still presides over, and disposes of them as he sees proper ;—to whom all nations are indebted for whatever they have and possess, and who is therefore alone entitled to their praise and adoration :—A God who has framed over our heads the canopy of heaven, adorned with the sun by day, and many thousand glittering orbs by night ;—who has charged this most brilliant luminary, the sun, with the care of visiting, by turns, all the parts of this earth, affording the different seasons, by a regular succession, to all its inhabitants.

O ye sons and daughters of men, is it because the day and the night is become familiar to you, that you never think of the Author of them !

Without going farther, can we look home to ourselves, and see the wonderful mechanism of our own bodies, without admiring the skill of the great and eternal Artist ! Can we look into the natural history of countries, and see the different kinds of people, animals of all kinds, the mineral and vegetable kingdoms—can we so much as barely glance at these things, without being struck at the incomprehensible wisdom with which they were originally contrived, and are still preserved and propagated !

C H A P.

C H A P. LXXIV.

SUCH is the system of religion I have wrote down for my Kalish subjects. I entirely free you of the expensive pilgrimages to which you were bound by the old religion. You have no longer any occasion to come from all parts to the metropolis once a year to worship God, and make him presents. The cheat is detected. You are now to look for God every where—in a cottage as well as in a palace—at sea as well as at land—and be assured, that a pure and blameless life is the only acceptable offering you can make to him. As it is absolutely necessary that you be frequently reminded of your duty to God and one another, every seventh day must still be kept up for that purpose, when you
are

are to suspend your usual labour, and attend your pastors and ministers in the discharge of their divine office. But, in the case of a precarious harvest, there will be no harm in fetching home your corns any good day, Sunday not excepted. Neither are you tied down to a rigid attendance in the church ; your health and other circumstances will sometimes excuse you.

CHAP.

C H A P. LXXV.

BEFORE I take my leave, I must enjoin you, my Kalish clergy, to be very attentive to the welfare of your respective flocks. It is not sufficient that you mount the pulpit, and go regularly through your Sunday's duty in the church; call upon the indigent and distressed; and, where it is necessary, be always ready with your best advice. I need not bid you visit the rich.

Never tire the people with long preachings, nor frighten them with wry faces. Long prayers, too, is very improper. God does not require to be told too minutely what he is to do with his creatures. He knows our needs and wants better than we do ourselves. We need not tell him that
we

we are worthless sinners, and unworthy of his notice, and then, all at once, at him with a thousand petitions. After all, prayer and preaching are very essential duties. I have only cautioned you not to disgust the people with too much speaking.

Your principal duty in the church is to assist in singing the praises of God. For this purpose, the people must be taught to sing. Music cannot be too elevated on so great an occasion. Mean time, it is the goodness of our hearts that is acceptable to God; without this our singing will avail us nothing; neither will our prayers. People not born with musical talents, let them breathe with a good heart. Musical instruments of the best kind are very proper to assist in founding the praises of God.

A word more to my Kalish clergy:—
Be exemplary in your lives. I found it a common saying in the country, you must not do as the minister does, but do as he bids you. What a shame! Your station
is

is the most honourable that can be ; you are the servants of the Most High God ; and will you debase your name, your ministerial character, by a grovelling compliance with the vices of the age ? Shew yourselves in your lives and manners worthy of the clerical rank. Explain to your hearers the lessons of morality herein contained. Point out to them the beauty of virtue, the deformity of vice. Exhibit before their eyes, from the many remarkable passages in history, the terrible punishments that constantly, at one time or other, fall upon the wicked, to their utter ruin !

Never, in your sermons or otherwise, discover an affected superiority of understanding. Let us never hear any more of the ceremonies and mysteries of your old religion ; let every thing you advance in the pulpit be plain and level to the weakest capacity. The poorest country peasant knows as much of God as the wisest philosopher, and needs only to be frequently told,

told, in plain Kalish, that the Almighty Creator rewards the good man either in this world or in the next, and most frequently in both ; and that he punishes the wicked everlastingly, if he does not repent in due time of his sins, and return to his duty, whilst it is yet in his power ; for no man knows how soon death or other accidents may disable him from ever making up his account with God by the way of repentance.

I had almost forgot to remind you that the psalms and hymns used in our churches require, in many places, alteration and amendment. I know, indeed, that most of you will be more sagacious at finding faults than happy in mending them—therefore submit the whole to the correction of some of our most celebrated poets.



F I N I S.

